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1 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5 Held:

6 Thursday, February 16, 2006

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9 Time:

10 6:30 p.m.

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13 Location:

14 Council Chambers

15 Scranton City Hall

16 340 North Washington Avenue

17 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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23 Lisa M. Graff, RMR

24 Court Reporter

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1 CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

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3 MS. JUDY GATELLI, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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5 MR. WILLIAM COURTRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT

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7 MS. JANET EVANS

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9 MS. SHERRY NEALON FANUCCI

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11 MR. ROBERT McTIERNAN (arrived where noted)

12

13 MR. AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE, SOLICITOR

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15 MS. KAY GARVEY, CITY CLERK

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17 MR. NEIL COOLICAN, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

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1 MS. GATELLI: Okay. Please stand for  
2 the Pledge Of Allegiance. Please remain standing for a  
3 moment of reflection. Roll call.

4 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

5 MS. EVANS: Here.

6 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

7 MS. FANUCCI: Here.

8 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Here.

10 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

11 MR. COURTRIGHT: Here.

12 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

13 MS. GATELLI: Here. Mr. McTiernan

14 called me early, there is an awards program at Scranton

15 High, and he will be a little late. Mrs. Garvey.

16 MS. GARVEY: 3-A, APPLICATIONS AND

17 DECISIONS RENDERED BY THE ZONING HEARING BOARD ON  
18 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2006.

19 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

20 If not, received and filed.

21 MS. GARVEY: 3-B, MINUTES OF THE

22 COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
23 JANUARY 25, 2006.

24 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

25 If not, received and filed.

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1 MS. GARVEY: 3-C, MINUTES OF THE

2 NON-UNIFORM PENSION BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY,  
3 JANUARY 25, 2006.

4 MS. GATELLI: Are there any comments?

5 If not, received and filed.

6 MS. GARVEY: Clerk's notes. The only

7 thing I have this week was Council's office had

8 received an E-mail from a citizen regarding a situation

9 that Councilwoman Fanucci spoke about last week

10 pertaining to the homeless situation at Bethel AME,

11 when she talked about the things that were in need of

12 down there, this person saw Council's meeting last week

13 and wanted to let Council know that he has a contact

14 with someone that has a lot of items available for a  
15 small fee, such as sleeping bags, shoes, coats, gloves,  
16 just to name a few, and I put the E-mail in each of  
17 your boxes for anyone that is interested in contacting  
18 that person, and also any E-mails that our office have  
19 received that pertain to another department, I have  
20 forward them on to each of those departments.

21 And all of your other letters that were  
22 requested of last week have been sent out, although it  
23 was not sent out until yesterday. And that's all I  
24 have.

25 MS. GATELLI: I just have a few things.

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1 There were basins cleaned in a variety of places this  
2 week, I won't enumerate them all.

3 As most of you know, there were two  
4 attempted robberies in South Scranton again this week.

5 I spoke to the mayor and he's going to increase the  
6 police patrols in that area.

7 Someone called me about the catch

8 basins in the 400 and 500 of Race Street, and

9 Mr. Matthews went out there today and he said the one

10 was functional, although there were some problems with

11 it, and the other one was in need of repair, so he  
12 would be putting them on the list.  
13 I wrote a letter to Fred Belardi,  
14 Gaynor Cawley and Robert Mellow, because I'm sure most  
15 of you have seen in the paper this week that there's a  
16 serious problem with the EMS tax.  
17 Now, I know that we need the money and  
18 we need it desperately, but there are no guidelines in  
19 the state law as to how to collect the money, so we  
20 made a ceiling of \$12,000 for the City of Scranton,  
21 however, employers are collecting it from everyone.  
22 I even talked to a girl that started to  
23 work at McDonald's and she made \$82, and they took the  
24 \$52 out.

25 From what I understand, it's the tax

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1 body that tells you how to collect the money. And I  
2 spoke to Kenny McDowell, and he told me that that was  
3 the way it was going to be done.  
4 I don't agree with it, and I don't  
5 think anybody up here will agree with it, but I did  
6 write a letter, and I'm going to read it to you.  
7 Dear Representatives, it is with grave

8 concern that I write this letter. Several weeks ago  
9 Scranton City Council passed legislation enacting the  
10 EMS tax as proposed by state legislators.  
11 We increased the exemption amount of  
12 the people being taxed from \$1,000 to \$12,000. We did  
13 not want to hurt the low income wage earner. We have  
14 come to discover that because there are no mandates to  
15 collect the tax, employers are deducting it from all  
16 wage earners and telling them to seek a refund next  
17 year.

18 This is totally intolerable and  
19 unacceptable. It is my understanding that this EMS tax  
20 will be revisited in the legislature.

21 I am asking that you would consider  
22 taking the tax at the end of the year as income tax is  
23 done so that people earning less would not pay.

24 Another consideration would be the  
25 possibility of making the tax a percentage of one's

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7

1 salary and would be taken out every pay period as the  
2 wage tax is, possibly one-tenth of one percent would be  
3 fair.

4 A person making \$10,000, would pay \$10,

5 a person making \$50,000 would pay \$50, et cetera.

6 Please consider making some amendments to the law, as

7 the low wage earner in Scranton is suffering.

8 I would be willing to meet with you at

9 your earliest convenience. I will also send any

10 further input from other Council members after our

11 weekly meeting.

12 So, if anyone has any additional items

13 that they would like addressed, we can send that and I

14 would like you all to be there if indeed they will meet

15 with us.

16 We got two checks from non-profit

17 organizations this week, the Covenant Presbyterian

18 Church sent \$1,0000, we would like to thank them very

19 much for stepping forward and helping our community.

20 The other one is from the Scranton

21 Housing Authority, \$6,539.52, and we would also like to

22 thank them for coming forward.

23 Another letter went to the Recreation

24 Authority asking them to consider naming the children's

25 park at Nay Aug in memory of Morris Jackson. For any

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1 of you that know Morris, his life was Nay Aug, so we

2 sent that, too, from Council.

3 The last thing I have is the non-profit

4 organizations, I'd like to thank the many people that

5 sent me things in E-mail.

6 Mr. Narsavage sent me quite a bit of

7 information, Mary Ann Wardell sent some, and it's all

8 very interesting, and I think that we can really do

9 this project, but I think we need to work together.

10 A person cannot do it alone, as

11 Mr. Narsavage said, You'll have to quit your day job,

12 he said in the E-mail, and a lot of what I've been

13 reading, and I was really interested in Philadelphia

14 because they're in Pennsylvania, the other states have

15 different laws, and it was done by Governor Rendell

16 when he was the mayor there, so I'd like to form some

17 type of an ad hoc committee that maybe we can meet

18 weekly.

19 I think we have to meet weekly, because

20 it's that important to get this off the ground, and I

21 would like some people, and even people in the viewing

22 audience, if they would like to volunteer to call Kay

23 and tell her what time you're available, you know, what

24 time of the day, it has to be after school, so it has

25 to be after three o'clock for Janet, I, Bill, you need

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9

1 to have a day meeting, but if you're interested, and I  
2 think we can go on this, I'd like to call Philadelphia,  
3 I'd like to inspect all these properties.  
4 I have a list of all the non-profit tax  
5 exempt properties in the City of Scranton. I just got  
6 them yesterday from the assessor's office, as I looked  
7 through some of them, just from some of them I saw, I  
8 don't think they're tax exempt anymore, I think they  
9 have been converted to other properties, so we're also  
10 going to need people there to go and inspect these  
11 properties. So, if anyone would like to sign up, like  
12 I said, please do so. It's just a giant job, but I  
13 that we'll make some headway if we do.  
14 The city solicitor should be involved,  
15 somebody from planning and our solicitor, too, Amil, we  
16 are going to give you some extra work.  
17 So, you know, I'll call the mayor and  
18 see if we can have some volunteers from his  
19 administration, because we need them, too.  
20 And we'll just go from there. If  
21 anybody wants to see these tax exempt properties, you  
22 can get a copy later from Kay. All right. That's all

23 I have. Does anybody else like to talk right now?

24 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Gatelli, just to back

25 pedal a little bit to the payments in lieu of taxes

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1 received from those two organizations, they have in the

2 past made those donations, so I think they're to be

3 commended for this donation, but for having stepped up

4 to the plate in years past, as well, so they are

5 certainly a good neighbor and interested in our

6 community.

7 With regard to the non-profits and the

8 discussion therein, I think what we're going to need is

9 basically assistance from the state, and I think it my

10 behove either our state senator or state

11 representatives to propose a bill or an amendment

12 whereby municipalities throughout the State of

13 Pennsylvania who would coexist, let's say, and this is

14 not, you know, this is not a formula by any means, but

15 let's say just for the sake of discussion one-fourth of

16 their property would now be occupied by non-profits and

17 KOZs, they would be eligible then for assistance from

18 the State of Pennsylvania to make up for the loss on

19 the tax rolls from having those entities take over

20 those it parcels of land, and perhaps there can be a  
21 formula worked out for it, but I really believe in  
22 order for this to have teeth, and at this point in time  
23 perhaps it does need teeth.

24 I know in Pittsburgh, for example,  
25 contributions in lieu of taxes may well have been part

11

1 and parcel of their recovery plan, because the people  
2 of Pittsburgh, as well as the elected officials,  
3 recognize the fact that part of the reason anyway that  
4 they were financially insolvent was due to the fact  
5 that so many non-profits and KOZs had eroded the tax  
6 base there, and as a result, that was, I believe,  
7 worked into their recovery plan, and that is something  
8 maybe Scranton can do, as well, but I really think we  
9 need, as do many, many other municipalities throughout  
10 the state, I think when you're caring such a burden in  
11 terms of non-profits, taking properties off of tax  
12 roll, and in addition to that, a distressed city label,  
13 there should be provisions made for those cities from  
14 the state.

15 And I know the state has passed many  
16 laws, specifically to aid Pittsburgh and Philadelphia,

17 because they didn't want to see those cities go under.

18 Why then not Scranton?

19 We're not the smallest city in

20 Pennsylvania, and I'm sure there's many others, as

21 Mrs. Fanucci knows, who are in circumstances very

22 similar to ours, if not worse, so I think we have to

23 reach out to them and work together, and if they are

24 able, as I said on a state level to put some teeth into

25 this, it will make the job that much easier.

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1 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

2 MR. MINORA: If I may, I've got a

3 meeting tomorrow with Harry McGrath --

4 MS. GATELLI: Excuse me, Attorney

5 Minora. I just want to tell you, if you could speak

6 right into the microphone, because people are E-mailing

7 me that I can't hear you.

8 MS. EVANS: And me.

9 MR. MINORA: I thought I was.

10 MS. EVANS: And me.

11 MS. GATELLI: Really?

12 MS. EVANS: They say they cannot hear

13 you and they cannot hear Mr. McTiernan.

14 MS. GATELLI: Yes, McTiernan, too.

15 MR. MINORA: Well, I'm trying. I've

16 got it on and I'm talking right into it. I don't know.

17 Maybe I've got a bad mic.

18 MS. GATELLI: Okay.

19 MR. MINORA: I have a meeting tomorrow

20 with Harry McGrath, who's the solicitor for the school

21 district, to review with him the results of a lawsuit

22 that the school district brought to try and collect

23 money from non-profits, so I'll report back to you next

24 week on the results of that. I'll know better

25 tomorrow.

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1 MS. EVANS: Good.

2 MS. GATELLI: Before you go, I'd like

3 to give you this abstract about Philadelphia, because

4 it tells the whole story about how they did it. It's

5 excellent.

6 MR. MINORA: I'd like to see it. If

7 you wouldn't mind, would you mind passing it over?

8 I'll take a look at that, too, if you're not going to

9 use it right now.

10 MS. GATELLI: No. That's what I got

11 from Mr. Narsavage. It's the one from Philadelphia.

12 All right. The first speaker is Andy Sbaraglia.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia, citizen

14 of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians, I can see the school

15 board going after the KOZs, because I believe there was

16 something in the original legislation that they have to

17 do something for the school district when they got

18 their KOZ. I remember that very distinctly, but

19 nothing was ever done with it.

20 Okay. On the agenda, 7-C, Resolution

21 of the Council of City of Scranton authorizing

22 participation in the multimunicipal planning effort and

23 authorizing South Abington Township to make application

24 for such a grant on behalf of the City of Scranton as a

25 participant in the Scranton Abington Planning

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14

1 Association, I have nothing against that, but we sit

2 here in the valley with our neighbors practically, I

3 could reach them. We got Taylor, we got Dunmore, we

4 got Dickson city, and we got municipals that go right

5 into one after another.

6 Now, if this is such a great idea, I

7 suggest we start going into regional planning with our

8 whole valley, our neighbors. We're all in the same  
9 boat when it comes there, we all breathe the same air,  
10 even though it is polluted, we do breathe it, and maybe  
11 we can get something going, but not as one  
12 municipality, but all municipalities.

13 I don't know what they're offering.

14 Did you meet with them today on something on this  
15 thing? Did you explain it, because unfortunately you  
16 can't hear nothing there. I'll give up my time to let  
17 you explain it.

18 MS. GATELLI: It would be all those

19 communities that, I don't have the sheet with me from  
20 last week, all the townships, there will be two

21 representatives from each community, they would come to  
22 a consensus on issues, it would be a comprehensive plan  
23 for future development.

24 They're going to be hiring a

25 consultant, the consultant will come here at least four

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1 times for public input. The cost is \$266,000. The

2 state is paying \$166,000, and the communities are

3 putting in the rest.

4 We are going to be committed for

5 \$17,000 for two years for a total of \$34,000, and it  
6 will come from OECD from administrative costs, and it  
7 will take two years at least to do this plan.

8 We can pull out at any time if we  
9 don't, you know, like what they're doing. We will  
10 definitely have input in it. Donny King said he will  
11 report to us from time to time, and we would continue  
12 to have our planning commission and our zoning board  
13 and our zoning ordinance.

14 MR. SBARAGLIA: I'm a little troubled  
15 about Abingtons, are you saying that Old Forge, Taylor  
16 and so forth are in this, or just communities that are  
17 on the other side of our mountain?

18 MS. GATELLI: I don't have it with me.

19 Kay, do you have it?

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Because it makes little  
21 sense to be over the mountain, when we got our  
22 neighbors next door and we're turning our backs on  
23 them.

24 It would make much more sense to join  
25 with our neighbors that are here in our valley, than up

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1 with neighbors that are up a mountain away from us. We

2 got very little to do with them. We have nothing  
3 actually in common with them. They're farmland up  
4 there. I mean, Clarks Summit is a small town, the  
5 Abingtons is small.

6 MS. GATELLI: Well, when she explained  
7 it she said that a lot of the places in the Abingtons  
8 are rural and they want to stay that way, and they're  
9 not, they're being made for factories, etc., and we  
10 need the business here, the companies, so we're going  
11 to exchange ideas and see if we --

12 MR. SBARAGLIA: That's what I'm saying,  
13 we would be much more to shake hands with our neighbors  
14 than join -- actually use whatever plan they have up  
15 there and extend it to our valley where our neighbors  
16 are and we have everything in common with them. We  
17 have more in common with our neighbors than we do with  
18 a farmland up there in Ransom, so, I think -- I don't  
19 have any --

20 MS. GATELLI: I don't know how they  
21 decided which communities were involved.

22 MR. SBARAGLIA: Yeah, I know they don't  
23 decide, because they're interested in their -- they  
24 have their agenda, but we have an agenda, too, and  
25 that's our valley, and that's where our efforts should

17

1 be put.

2 Whatever they're using, I suggest we

3 look into it and see if we can expand it to all our

4 municipalities in our valley here, because you know we

5 just run into each other. I mean, they go from Taylor

6 to Old Forge and so forth.

7 MS. GATELLI: This is the application,

8 and I'll let you have it, Mr. Sbaraglia. And I suggest

9 if you have any questions to give Donny King a call.

10 MR. SBARAGLIA: I sure would.

11 MS. GATELLI: And I'm sure he will be

12 more than happy to explain it more fully. I thought

13 you could hear us. I apologize that you couldn't hear

14 us.

15 MR. SBARAGLIA: No. There's no way you

16 can hear up there.

17 MS. GATELLI: We certainly would have

18 had you up at the table if we had known you couldn't

19 hear.

20 MR. SBARAGLIA: Well, there was a lot

21 of other people back there, too.

22 MS. GATELLI: I apologize for that.

23 MS. EVANS: Mr. Sbaraglia, I can tell

24 you, it's Abington Township, Clarks Green Borough,

25 Clarks Summit Borough, Dalton Borough, Glenburn

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1 Township, Newton Township, North Abington Township, the

2 City of Scranton, South Abington Township and West

3 Abington Township.

4 MR. SBARAGLIA: Okay. It's all the

5 rural area, and our neighbors, well --

6 MS. EVANS: One of the benefits,

7 however, that was mentioned this evening was that it

8 would in fact place Scranton and all of those boroughs

9 and townships I just enumerated at the end of the line

10 in terms of applications for state grants for economic

11 development or any other issues that would arise in

12 terms of planning and zoning, et cetera.

13 MR. SBARAGLIA: I have nothing against

14 joining it, I'm just saying we should expand it to our

15 neighbors. Like I said before, our neighbors are in

16 Taylor, Dunmore, Dickson City --

17 MS. EVANS: Moosic.

18 MR. SBARAGLIA: -- and up the line. If

19 you want Moosic, as you -- you keep going up the

20 valley. I mean, they're there. I mean, they just run  
21 right into each other. So, if this is such a good  
22 idea, maybe it's even a better idea if you get the  
23 whole valley involved. I thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

25 Maria Shumaker.

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1 MS. SHUMAKER: Just for the record,

2 it's Shumaker.

3 MS. GATELLI: Shumaker, I'm sorry.

4 MS. SHUMAKER: I have a whole litany of

5 items, but first I was unable to stay last week, and I

6 apologize, because I wanted to speak to the tree house

7 issue, not so much the tree house, as priorities for

8 the use of public dollars.

9 And I had spoken with Keith Williams

10 last week prior to the meeting and he said he concurred

11 with me and my conclusion that if public dollars are to

12 be used, the first priority should be completion of the

13 comfort station for handicapped persons.

14 It's unfortunate, I think, that it was

15 placed down across the street from the green house,

16 which is sort of out of the way of most of the

17 activity, but \$20,000 has already been expended to do  
18 the interior, but it's not accessible.  
19 And to me, that is, and Keith concurs,  
20 that completing that comfort station and actually  
21 opening it up to handicapped persons would be the first  
22 priority use for that.  
23 I brought the pictures that I brought  
24 when I came to the OECD hearing, their budget for this  
25 year, because they did not conclude that completion.  
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20

1 So, that's something that truly needs to be done there.  
2 There are, I've been told by the Rec.  
3 Authority, three handicapped porta-potties around, but  
4 I know I found one one day, but if you're in a  
5 wheelchair, you're not going to go from pillar to post  
6 looking for a restroom, and even -- well, they don't  
7 have the planned sidewalks on Arthur Avenue yet, so  
8 even to access this place, you've got to go through  
9 that pie-shaped thing by the band station, not a very  
10 direct routing for when you got to go to the bathroom.  
11 And the three porta-potties, as I say,  
12 I was only able to find one, and we wheeled around that  
13 whole place, did not go down to that tent-like building

14 where they have performances.

15 I did find one between the pool and

16 Arthur Avenue, but it didn't even have a handicapped

17 sign on it. I mean, it didn't have the symbol on it.

18 I just walked up to it and it looked to be a different

19 size than the others.

20 And I, again, I've gone to the Rec.

21 Authority, I've asked them to put signage up there for

22 the whole park, they say they're working on it, but

23 it's a long time coming, but something definitely needs

24 to be done, and that comfort station needs to be put on

25 a priority list.

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21

1 My next item is the announcement of the

2 building that the University is going to build. I

3 think it's wonderful, but I have grave concerns after

4 seeing Lackawanna Avenue closes for two years for the

5 building of the Southern Union Building.

6 That's a major corridor for traffic

7 between the McDade Expressway and the Hill Section and

8 East Mountain and for the fire trucks, they just went

9 out tonight, they go that way, and I would hope that a

10 way can be found to keep Mulberry Street totally opened

11 during that process.

12 So -- because apparently the city has

13 no teeth to enforce Southern Union to complete that

14 building and get Lackawanna Avenue opened, at least

15 that's what I've been told.

16 The next deals with parking fee

17 revenues. Where do they appear in the budget, how many

18 parking spaces are subject to that fee and how much was

19 collected last year for that? Is there somebody that

20 can tell me?

21 MS. EVANS: I believe all of that

22 information can be obtained from the Scranton Parking

23 Authority.

24 MS. SHUMAKER: I went to their meeting

25 last night and they told me they are not responsible

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22

1 for that at all --

2 MS. GATELLI: No, it's licenses and

3 inspection, licensing and inspection on the fourth

4 floor. Bill Fiorini's office collects the parking lot

5 fees. I believe it's \$15 per spot, and that's any

6 parking lot in the city has to pay that fee.

7 MS. SHUMAKER: But how many are there,

8 who is in charge of knowing where there are and --

9 MS. GATELLI: Someone in that office

10 should be.

11 MS. SHUMAKER: So, nobody here can --

12 okay. Can I continue with my couple other items?

13 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

14 MS. SHUMAKER: Thank you. The other

15 thing deals with the city's health care costs. I've

16 attended the taxpayers group, I've been online, I heard

17 everything from the city doesn't know what they're

18 paying for health care costs to the costs are way up,

19 so, what I'd like to know is what is going on with

20 health care costs, what's going on with the audit and

21 who's responsible for getting the information to the

22 health care management consultant so that this can get

23 behind the city?

24 MS. GATELLI: I'll just interrupt you

25 for a minute. Last week I spoke to Nelson Ancherani

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23

1 after the meeting, because I forgot to tell him during

2 the meeting, when I called about the health care

3 committee, they have all the information, I was told,

4 for several months, and they called a meeting in

5 December, and no one could make the meeting, so they  
6 said they were going to E-mail all the interested  
7 parties and have a health care committee meeting to  
8 discuss this, but as far as I was told, the health care  
9 consultant had all the information they needed.

10 MS. SHUMAKER: Okay. So, when will the  
11 audit be complete and publicly available?

12 MS. GATELLI: I guess when they have  
13 this meeting, this health care committee meeting.

14 MS. SHUMAKER: And are those open  
15 meetings or are they --

16 MS. GATELLI: I don't know. I'll find  
17 out for you.

18 MS. SHUMAKER: Okay. I appreciate  
19 that. And then -- and finally with respect to the city  
20 clerk's office, and I did make this yesterday, I came  
21 down to pick something up, they've always been  
22 extremely responsive when you ask for an ordinance, but  
23 I did come down and the office was locked.

24 I went around and nobody knew, you  
25 know, they said, Well, it's understaffed. So, I would

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24

I hope that, A, it would get fully staffed, if there's a

2 budgeted position; second, until there is, I would hope  
3 that one of those hour signs would be put in so that if  
4 you come down, you know what time somebody is expected  
5 back, so, you know, I don't know if, like, I came home  
6 and I had to to call. I got a call and somebody was  
7 back in the office.

8 But, you know, you don't know if you're  
9 going to wait five minutes or you're going to wait  
10 fifty minutes, so it would be nice to at least have  
11 that. I understand the problem, and I appreciate all  
12 the help, but --

13 MS. GARVEY: Yeah, sometimes Neil and  
14 I, our lunch sometimes cross or if I have to run out to  
15 go to a meeting, it might be while he's at lunch. We  
16 have no other choice but to lock the door because we're  
17 understaffed, and until we get another person in there,  
18 we can't juggle the lunch hours, because the office  
19 should be open at all times, but until we have two  
20 clerical people out there, then we can alternate their  
21 lunches so that that will never happen again, but  
22 sometimes that does --

23 MS. SHUMAKER: I understand that, and I  
24 hope you do, but it would be helpful if you had one of  
25 those hour things in so you knew what time somebody --

25

1 the first person back was expected, so that if you come

2 down again, as I say --

3 MS. GARVEY: Right.

4 MS. SHUMAKER: -- you've made the

5 effort to come downtown, find a parking space, and you

6 don't know if you're going to wait five minutes or

7 fifty minutes for somebody to come back, and that might

8 be helpful.

9 MS. GARVEY: Usually it is between the

10 hours between of one and two. If that were to ever

11 happen, they're usually the only times that it would be

12 locked.

13 MS. SHUMAKER: Okay. Thank you. That

14 completes. Thank you for your indulgence.

15 MS. GATELLI: Thank you for your

16 comments. Bill Jackowitz.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Good evening. Bill

18 Jackowitz, city resident, taxpayer, registered

19 independent voter, retired United States Air Force.

20 First of all, I would like to start off

21 by congratulating Mayor Doherty for showing up for the

22 returning Veterans on February 10.

23 Last year when he didn't show up, I  
24 criticized him, so this year he did show up, so I'm  
25 saluting him.

26

1 A quick check of the property tax  
2 exempt statuses, what I came up with is we have 1,043  
3 of them that I came up with.  
4 If taxes had been paid, and this is a  
5 very conservative estimate, it would have ben  
6 \$2,698,903.26 as loss tax revenue, and those are low  
7 assessments. So, as you can see, there is a lot of  
8 money involved here.

9 A couple questions that have been  
10 lingering for quite some time, Mr. Courtright, have we  
11 ever got a response back on Hollow Avenue? Was there a  
12 resolution to that situation? Were the allegations  
13 that were made, were they true and proper allegations,  
14 or not, and if so, was there ever anything done about  
15 that?

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: There was a meeting  
17 set up and Mr. Parker was supposed to attend with many  
18 of the residents, I believe, and I believe he did not  
19 show up, and I don't know if that meeting has been

20 rescheduled.

21 MS. EVANS: I can add to that, because

22 I was in attendance at the meeting awaiting the arrival

23 of Mr. Parker. We are trying to schedule another

24 meeting with him in the month of March on a Thursday

25 prior to a Council meeting, and as soon as that is

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27

1 scheduled, everyone will be made aware.

2 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay. Because this has

3 been going on for way before the election.

4 MS. EVANS: Oh, yes.

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: And, you know, if it

6 happened, it happened, if it didn't happen, it didn't

7 happen, but I think we need to find out.

8 My second question is, Mr. Courtright,

9 the safety inspection report for the parking garage

10 that a resolution was passed on, what's the status on

11 that?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't have the

13 document that they gave me, but the document they gave

14 me wasn't exactly what I wanted, so I'm waiting to get

15 a full-fledged engineer's report. I haven't received

16 it yet.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, I know. You  
18 talked about that about a month ago and still nothing?  
19 MR. COURTRIGHT: About two weeks ago, I  
20 believe it was, they sent me something, but it was very  
21 sketchy. It was more or less something that would be  
22 needed to occupy the building. It wasn't a report as  
23 to the problems that I had brought up.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: Because what our  
25 concern was the safety of the parking garage itself, so  
26 .  
27  
28

1 we don't know if it's safe or not yet.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, I don't have it  
3 with me, but I will read it to you, it's safe to be  
4 occupied, I'm being told, but the questions I raised  
5 were not answered, and that's what I'm waiting for.  
6 I'm being told it is safe to occupy.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: My next question is the  
8 Rinaldi project, when will it start, how long with  
9 Lackawanna Avenue be blocked and is it still going to  
10 be loft apartments, \$1,500 a month rent, and basement  
11 boutique, expensive?  
12 The Rinaldi project on Lackawanna  
13 Avenue, I know the money has already been allocated, it

14 was supposed to start last year, it was supposed to  
15 start.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I don't think they  
17 took possession of all the properties or got all that  
18 settled, I'm not quite sure. Do you know? I don't  
19 know.

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Actually I believe  
21 there was a few properties they did not acquire and  
22 they're waiting to do so. I believe they are trying to  
23 wrap that up now.

24 I don't know about the specialty  
25 boutiques and the loft apartments, I'm not sure if  
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29

1 there were plans for all of that yet.

2 I can go -- what I heard was  
3 restaurants, so it tells you that there's different  
4 plans out there, but as soon --

5 MR. JACKOWITZ: Yeah, I heard about the  
6 restaurants, but I heard that they were going to put  
7 boutiques downstairs. I heard this from one of the  
8 person who sold their property, that's what they were  
9 going to use their property for, boutiques downstairs  
10 in the basement and two loft apartments at \$1,500 a

11 month. That's what they were going to use this

12 particular property for.

13 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I'm not sure of

14 the plans, but I know they were holding off until they

15 did acquire these properties, and now I'm sure we will

16 see some type of movement there hopefully.

17 MR. JACKOWITZ: And about how long will

18 Lackawanna Avenue be tied, up, are we looking at

19 another Southern Union two years, three years?

20 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: I don't know, but

21 I can definitely find that out for you.

22 MR. JACKOWITZ: Okay.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Okay.

24 MR. JACKOWITZ: My next question is on

25 today's agenda, 5-I, is the asphalt recycling machine

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1 going to suffer the same fate as the pothole machine

2 suffered?

3 MS. EVANS: That's my question.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: I certainly hope not,

5 because the pothole machine is a mystery.

6 MR. JACKOWITZ: Exactly.

7 MS. EVANS: It seems we're making the

8 purchase in conjunction with Carbondale and --

9 MS. GATELLI: And the county.

10 MS. EVANS: -- yeah, and the county,

11 but I do agree with what you're saying, and before I

12 would agree to a purchase, I'd really would like an

13 update on the very expensive piece of machinery that

14 was purchased I think nearly two years ago, and I

15 haven't seen in probably 18 months.

16 MR. JACKOWITZ: And the last thing I

17 got, this is just a hypothetical here, if the

18 University of Scranton, Mercy Hospital and Lackawanna

19 College all merged, you know, I've been hearing rumors

20 that that could happen, is that a good thing for the

21 city or is that a bad thing for the city, especially if

22 Lackawanna College takes over the rights of Channel 61?

23 Anybody like to tackle that one?

24 MS. EVANS: Mercy --

25 MR. JACKOWITZ: Mercy Hospital, The

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1 University of Scranton and Lackawanna College forming a

2 partnership and a merge.

3 MS. EVANS: I haven't heard anything

4 concerning that situation.

5 MS. GATELLI: No, I haven't heard that

6 either.

7 MR. JACKOWITZ: I'm just saying it was

8 a hypothetical right now, is that a good thing for the

9 city or a bad thing for the city if that should happen?

10 I understand that there might be a

11 medical school, The University of Scranton and Mercy

12 Hospital and then Lackawanna joining right in on it.

13 It takes over half -- a good portion of the city. It's

14 something to maybe look into, check into it, see if

15 there's any truth to that rumor.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think a medical

17 school would be good, I'd love to see a medical school

18 come here.

19 MR. JACKOWITZ: As long as they're

20 paying taxes. If they're not paying taxes, I don't

21 know. Something to look into, just food for thought.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Yes.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

25 Stan Narsavage.

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1 MR. NARSAVAGE: Stan Narsavage,

2 resident of Scranton. Just to throw a little humor  
3 around here for a second, maybe the pothole machine  
4 fell in one of the potholes.  
5 I would like to talk about the  
6 community development police assignment officers and  
7 prosecutors. I'd like to read off a number of streets,  
8 Schlager, Oram, East Gibson, Farr, Dorothy, Elizabeth,  
9 Bulwer, Hawthorn, Thackery, Dickinson, and from  
10 Dickinson on over is the Village at Tripps Park. None  
11 of those streets appear on this form.

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: I could answer that,  
13 if you'd like.

14 MR. NARSAVAGE: Please don't. I want  
15 to use my five minutes, that's all I get.

16 MS. GATELLI: You can have more,  
17 Mr. Narsavage, if you want him to answer.

18 MR. NARSAVAGE: Let me tell you what we  
19 do have, we have a posse that was explained as just  
20 young people gathering together, we do have a park at  
21 Dorothy Street that administration continues to brag  
22 about putting in and fixing it up, and it's beautiful,  
23 except that the mothers won't let their children go  
24 there because that's where the posse meets.

25 It's been spray painted this past

1 summer two or three times. That was the only time I  
2 saw a beat officer after each one of those sprayings,  
3 they walked up Farr Street and I stopped them and  
4 talked to them, they said that's why they were there.  
5 That was the last time they were there.

6 Now, what we don't have is a beat  
7 officer, and I don't see him on this list. And why  
8 don't we? I'll let you answer now.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay. When you had an  
10 officer back there, I don't believe it was -- it might  
11 have been a CommD office, I don't think, I think it was  
12 West Beat Two or West Beat Three, and what that would  
13 be, that would be officers that the city was paying for  
14 and probably partially paid for by grants.

15 Those officers that you're seeing on  
16 that list now are CommD officers and they need to  
17 patrol low to moderate income areas.

18 And I agree that we need a beat officer  
19 there, but I do not think, and if I'm wrong, I'll stand  
20 corrected, I do not think that that particular area  
21 comes under low to moderate income area.

22 There was a West Beat One, a West Beat

23 Two and a West Beat Three at one time, and they were  
24 eliminated, and therefore went your beat officer.

25 So, when we talk beat officers, there's

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1 CommD officers, and they were fast cops or cops ahead  
2 possibly that were up in your area at that time.

3 MR. NARSAVAGE: With all due respect,

4 Mr. Courtright, I don't care what kind of officer, I

5 don't care what he is, I don't care if he's on a

6 bicycle on foot or whatever, why don't -- we should

7 have a beat officer. That's a large territory I just

8 read off.

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: I agree with you, I'm

10 just trying to explain to you why there isn't one there

11 now. Would I be for it? Absolutely.

12 MR. NARSAVAGE: Well, what can be done

13 about it?

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Well, we've been

15 asking, I think, for the more than two years that I've

16 been on this Council for more police officers, but we

17 haven't been successful. We need to ask for more

18 police officers and have somebody in the administration

19 agree with us.

20 MS. GATELLI: I think, Mr. Narsavage,  
21 if we can get, and it's not going to happen right away  
22 with the tax exempts, but if we can get people like  
23 Governor Rendell did when he was in Philadelphia as the  
24 mayor and get these people to commit for a long term to  
25 pay voluntarily, we can certainly use that money for  
. . .  
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1 police officers, because it would be a constant flow of  
2 money and we'll be able to budget it every year.

3 And I also think that the EMS Tax can  
4 be used for police officers, so we need to talk to the  
5 mayor.

6 MR. NARSAVAGE: I thought that was  
7 originally one of the things that it was put in place  
8 for.

9 MS. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. GATELLI: I think we need to talk  
11 to the mayor and tell him that it's Council's concern  
12 and wish that we have some more police officers hired.

13 MR. NARSAVAGE: Well, well, let me  
14 leave you with this thought then if you're going to  
15 talk to the mayor --

16 MS. GATELLI: Well, I think I would

17 talk on behalf of everyone here. Is anyone opposed to  
18 me asking him that?

19 MR. NARSAVAGE: If you're going to talk  
20 to the mayor --

21 MS. GATELLI: I'm sure nobody would be  
22 opposed to that.

23 MR. NARSAVAGE: -- the statement that  
24 you made earlier about forming an ad hoc committee on  
25 non-profits, I might be interested in that committee --

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1 MS. GATELLI: I hope you would be.

2 MR. NARSAVAGE: -- if the mayor told  
3 you that everybody is on table, every non-profit in  
4 this city is on the table. Now, that's going to  
5 include a lot of buddies and a lot of friends, The  
6 University of Scranton.

7 I'm standing here right now with 20  
8 properties, pin code, pin numbers, addresses,  
9 assessments and reductions, and you know what the  
10 difference is between the assessments and the  
11 reductions, only \$730,000.

12 Now, what in the world is going on? I

13 understand that The University of Scranton owns over

14 100 properties, and they're rented out.

15 MS. GATELLI: They're all in this

16 envelope.

17 MR. NARSAVAGE: And they're rented out

18 and they're collecting rent from students and we're not

19 collecting taxes.

20 Now, if you get back to me and tell me

21 that everybody is on the table, I may be interested in

22 your committee.

23 MS. GATELLI: Well, I hope you are, and

24 I hope that people aren't discouraged. I'm not sure.

25 You know, the mayor said in the paper that he'd be on

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1 board, but I said, I really don't care if he is or not.

2 You know, I think we as a Council can

3 do this. I don't think we need his permission.

4 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. Let me be

5 redundant and just say that, everybody, every non is on

6 the table.

7 MS. GATELLI: Absolutely.

8 MR. NARSAVAGE: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: I just wanted to add two

10 quick things. First of all, I think we can also look

11 into UDAG, which has approximately \$500,000 or slightly  
12 over that available, and certainly that could be  
13 designated toward additional police officers, if the  
14 mayor chose to do that.

15 With regard to the non-profits, it  
16 isn't so much a case, in fact it's never been the case  
17 of gaining the mayor's permission per se, but it really  
18 is impossible if you are not working in concert with  
19 the mayor to make such, I don't want to call them  
20 suggestions, but, you know, to put the facts on the  
21 table and insist that payments be made.

22 Like I said last week, if mom says yes  
23 and dad says no, the children are going to go -- are  
24 going to listen to the parent who's giving them what  
25 they want. So, I think that has been the single

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38

1 greatest obstacle to the collection of contributions in  
2 lieu of taxes.

3 And even if you trace the financial  
4 history of the contributions from, I believe, 2001  
5 forward, you'll see that during the Connors  
6 Administration, more was collected than in any single  
7 year of the current administration; in fact, the

8 figures are significantly lower, though, in my opinion,  
9 even during the Connors Administration they were  
10 significantly insufficient.

11 But, again, if the mayor is not in  
12 agreement with the citizens and taxpayers of the City  
13 of Scranton, if he's not in agreement with Scranton  
14 City Council, then I don't believe we can go very far,  
15 because this is a strong mayor form of government, and  
16 if he is going to protect certain institutions or  
17 certain friends, as you suggested, then certainly he  
18 can continue to do that.

19 MR. NARSAVAGE: Well, that will be a  
20 sad day if that's the reasoning. And if he's --

21 MS. EVANS: Oh, it's a very sad day,  
22 but, Mr. Narsavage, I think we have had four years of  
23 sad days.

24 MR. NARSAVAGE: Yes, I agree. And I  
25 hope --

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1 MS. GATELLI: And there are ways, if  
2 you read -- I'm sure you read the --

3 MR. NARSAVAGE: Absolutely.

4 MS. GATELLI: You know, there are ways

5 to convince them that they should make voluntary  
6 payments.

7 MR. NARSAVAGE: Yes, there's no law  
8 that they have to do it.

9 MS. GATELLI: No, but there's ways in  
10 that Philadelphia Plan. All we can do is try. We'll  
11 sit down, we'll work on it and we'll try, and we'll  
12 hope that there's enough people in this community that  
13 care and that will make a voluntary contribution.

14 MS. EVANS: And perhaps even the  
15 administration, because I'm sure Council wouldn't have  
16 a problem with it, but if administration might agree to  
17 include language, if possible, into an updated recovery  
18 plan that provides for these measures, we'll have  
19 teeth.

20 MR. NARSAVAGE: Let me just be a little  
21 facetious and say that I hope we don't have a beat cop  
22 where I live because of the mayor's breezing of some  
23 kind. Thank you.

24 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

25 Erik Johnson.

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1 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, City

2 Council and staff. Erik Johnson, taxpayer and resident  
3 of North Scranton.

4 I also agree, the City of Scranton  
5 should have a Central City Boys Club. It would benefit  
6 our kids who cannot go elsewhere. Why don't we have  
7 one? Why don't we have a Central City Boys Club and  
8 why not have one?

9 MR. MINORA: There is one.

10 MR. JOHNSON: Pardon? Not here in  
11 Central City, do we?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: It's on Ash Street.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, okay. I'm sorry.

14 All right. I'm sorry. All right. I thought you  
15 didn't have one. My apology.

16 MS. GATELLI: That's okay.

17 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Job tax revs,  
18 since there has been dozens of phone calls from workers  
19 complaining that their employers are illegally  
20 deducting the new \$52 Emergency Municipal Service Tax,  
21 we must also pay attention of what main purposes the  
22 job tax should only be earmarked for.  
23 State law enacted in 2004 allows  
24 municipalities to increase the job tax much up to \$52  
25 if the money is earmarked for police, fire or emergency

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1 services and property tax reduction.

2 The question is, Is this going to be

3 done for these purposes only and not for other projects

4 not mentioned in the 2000 state law, as The Scranton

5 Times-Tribune stated.

6 And since The Times-Tribune has printed

7 the amount of seven candidates for Council's campaigns

8 in the paper, my opinion, and only as said, we should

9 move on to more important opinions without badgering

10 anyone.

11 There's a difference between badgering

12 and disagreeing a Councilperson. One is being mean and

13 nasty, the other is expression in a disputed issue in a

14 decent demeanor way.

15 It's a fact, big money isn't always

16 necessary to win any election in politics. It's how

17 much people like you and as you come across to them in

18 a decent manner.

19 Last week I spoke here about the

20 non-profits pay-ups. I want to clarify one part, by

21 all means, no church should ever be made to pay taxes.

22 Our forefathers of our country made that a firm law,

23 separation of church and state, but, yes, as I stated

24 last week, but not clearly, since the Covenant

25 Presbyterian Church volunteered in the past, the word

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42

1 again, voluntarily, which means carrying on an idea of

2 full knowledge or full conscience of the nature of an

3 intended action and done or are to be done of one free

4 will.

5 No church is obligated to pay any

6 tax-like fee to the city, but as I emphasized last

7 week, if there were wealthy churches who would

8 volunteer as well as that particular presbyterian

9 church, then there may be other churches who can also

10 afford for public safety reasons, like donations to pay

11 program or only on a volunteer basis, then the churches

12 that cannot will be exempt, which are through our area

13 and around the whole country churches are being broken

14 in and robbed or even deliberately burned down. Night

15 watch can be difficult and expensive by law enforcement

16 agencies.

17 I hope I made myself clear. I am not

18 for taxing churches, so all your churches listen

19 carefully before judging an opinion of an

20 unincorporated group associated for some specific  
21 purpose, mainly the KOZs entitlements who are not  
22 paying anything and should pay up.  
23 The city and all of us should thank and  
24 recommend the Covenant Presbyterian church for donating  
25 annually the \$1,000.

43

1 Has any of the KOZs donated any amount?  
2 They could afford a lot more than \$1,000 annually.  
3 Thank you for letting me speak.  
4 (WHEREUPON, Mr. McTiernan entered the meeting.)  
5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Julie Jones.  
6 Thank you, Mr. Johnson.  
7 MS. JONES: Good evening, Council.  
8 Julie Jones, city resident. I would like to start by  
9 asking for a few things. I would like a letter, once  
10 again, sent to Mr. Scopelliti about the problems by my  
11 house and how he plans to resolve them.  
12 Also, I would like the figures for the  
13 cost of the Christmas lights display at Nay Aug, that  
14 would be only for the operation of the lights and what  
15 it ran the city to display them, also all donations  
16 given at the light display upon exiting the park.

17 Also, I would like the figures for all  
18 expenses for the pool at Nay Aug last year, meaning,  
19 all utilities and everything else that it took to run  
20 the pool, also the revenue brought in by charging for  
21 the pool.

22 Also, there's a house that I've asked  
23 several times to be taken care of and it is still an  
24 eyesore in South Scranton. It is located at 1719  
25 Prospect Avenue, and it is a disgrace to the block and  
44

1 something should be done. I've been asking for that  
2 now for a year.

3 As far as the Junior Caucus goes, I  
4 feel that they should hold a question/answer session at  
5 both high schools once a month and get the other  
6 students' input on different concerns that they might  
7 have, even put a suggestion box at the high school,  
8 then they can bring it to Council by way of meeting  
9 before the Council meeting.

10 Also, I feel the Council meeting is for  
11 the adults of the city and not the junior caucus. If  
12 they want to come and possibly sit here at this  
13 roundtable to attend the meeting, that would be a great

14 idea. Also, I think that the chairperson of this  
15 caucus should be decided on and not just appointed, but  
16 the 6:30 meeting is for the regular meeting.

17 As far as people saying they would be  
18 ashamed to bring people to these meetings because of  
19 the way they act at the podium or the way things are  
20 handled at the meetings by Council, well, I have one  
21 thing to say, welcome to Politics 101.

22 As far as the meetings going on the  
23 road, I think it is a bad idea because it will not be  
24 aired live, and I am sure the replay will be edited,  
25 and also it was tried in the past and it did not work.

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1 I also was wondering if any of you took  
2 a look at the proposal I read to you last week  
3 regarding the earned income tax. I have tonight  
4 figures that represent a possible outcome of this  
5 proposal. I'm sure, and I'll pass a copy, and I'm not  
6 going to go through them all, but I'll pass each a copy  
7 before I leave.

8 And finally, I am sure everyone heard  
9 of the saying one time or another, how many people does  
10 it take to screw in a light bulb, well, how many people

11 does it take to mulch a Christmas tree? I am sure not  
12 as many as the amount of trucks that are at the complex  
13 every morning. I thank you for your time.

14 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

15 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Jones, I'm certain  
16 that the revenue that was brought in from the Christmas  
17 light display and from Nay Aug pool during the summer  
18 of 2005 would be available.

19 I found great difficulty, however,  
20 obtaining specific information with regard to the  
21 utility bill that you cite.

22 What I've been told is that they can't  
23 breakdown the electric bill in that manner, so whether  
24 that's true or not, I really don't know. I have to  
25 believe what they're telling me at this point, because

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1 I know you've been asking for that for quite a long  
2 time, and the information that I was given, I know I  
3 gave to you, and it wasn't the answer you were looking  
4 for, it was a general overall cost, rather than a  
5 breakdown, but I don't know if we're going to be able  
6 to get the breakdown.

7 MS. JONES: It doesn't seem like we're

8 going to. Like you said, it seems like it's sealed and

9 nobody is allowed to have it.

10 MS. GATELLI: Does the Recreation

11 Authority pay those bills?

12 MS. EVANS: I think -- well, for

13 example, with regard to the supplies and repairs at

14 Nay Aug Park, that would probably -- that appears in

15 the budget, but in combination with costs incurred for

16 all city pools, because when I've tried to obtain a

17 breakdown for Nay Aug, specifically over the last two

18 years, that was the response that I received in writing

19 from Mr. Scopelliti, that these costs are all merged.

20 So, for example, for me to even

21 determine what the ultimate cost of repairs to the pool

22 house would have been, was next to impossible, because

23 plumbers and pipes, et cetera, were also utilized in

24 another, well, actually in a neighborhood pool, so

25 there was no breakdown there.

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1 But, Mrs. Gatelli, the Recreation

2 Authority, I believe, handles the revenue end, but

3 City Council and the people of Scranton pay the bills.

4 MS. JONES: All right. Well, if

5 somebody could get me those figure, I'd appreciate it.

6 It seems like I'm not going to get them.

7 And what I'm about to say, I'm sure I'm

8 never going to get them now, but the reason for asking

9 for these figures is, is if the pool figures are less

10 than the light figures or there's just a minute

11 difference, then I think this summer the kids should

12 swim for free. Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Bob Bolus.

14 MR. BOLUS: Good evening, Council,

15 Bob Bolus. I didn't even think I was going to make the

16 meeting tonight, I just came in from Delaware. It's

17 nice tonight to see the three people sitting at this

18 table. It shows we did move forward.

19 I know some people are upset on the

20 process that young Doug became chairman, well,

21 gentlemen, you'll all have that opportunity to

22 challenge him when the next round comes around, and the

23 parents and everybody here should be encouraged to

24 bring your children here and let them start sitting in

25 here, that they gain this knowledge. And remember, it

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1 started up here before it got over to there.

2 The Times had an issue here, and I find  
3 it interesting, because I've been harping about the  
4 non-profits. You know, let's quit pushing the peas  
5 around the plate. And I'm tired of hearing let's get  
6 token dollars. No, let's get the real dollars.  
7 True, non-profits bring it in, and we  
8 saw a couple new shops opening up in this city, and  
9 they're non-profit and they're going to come and grow,  
10 but in the meantime the businesses that have been here  
11 are paying the way for all these other businesses in  
12 the city, The University, the hospitals, the churches.  
13 And I'm one great believer, a house of  
14 worship should never, ever be taxed for any purpose.  
15 The rectory, the auditoriums, the parking lots,  
16 absolutely. They're a business out there, they have  
17 different things that go on.  
18 We need to put in line once and for all  
19 a fee across everyone, not the token nonsense, throw us  
20 \$150,000 here or \$75,000 here. No, pay what's fair.  
21 Everybody in this community that's not  
22 a non-profit or a KOZ, the sheriff's sold by the tax  
23 office or by the city or new collection agencies,  
24 because they got to pay taxes, is that fair?  
25 Absolutely not.

1 Those that are turning their thermostat  
2 down because they can't afford the price of fuel today,  
3 is it fair that they support those that could turn  
4 their thermostats up because they can charge whatever  
5 they want to charge and make all the money in this  
6 community they want to make? And that's ridiculous.

7 So, you know, let's just put it to the  
8 side and get it done, because talk is cheap, and we've  
9 flapped our jaws long enough in this city. Let's do it  
10 and get it over with.

11 You know, I don't want to hear the  
12 mayor say some of the people are token. When they take  
13 over the new or where the South Side Complex is, it's  
14 all gone, it's all lost revenue that we're losing, and  
15 I think we're all sick and tired of carrying everybody  
16 else on our back, the seniors, the young families  
17 trying to move in here or move out of here because they  
18 can't afford to live in the City of Scranton.

19 We could create a tax base and increase  
20 the tax rate, if we just go out and do it. We could  
21 bring money from our police and fire department by  
22 charging for them in an accident, what they're entitled

23 to be paid to a KOZ and a non-profit. Let's stop

24 talking about it, let's do it.

25 You know, people on some TV -- or some

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1 internet channel had a comment that I was called about,

2 because I don't look at it, I don't have time to waste

3 on it, that I've softened up, they don't seem to

4 understand something, I don't come here to beat up on

5 people, I come here to get a job done.

6 And I've been adversarial here with

7 councilmen in the past, I've seen problems go on, and,

8 yeah, I'll debate an issue, but I'll debate it on

9 behalf of the people, nothing for myself.

10 So, when The Times wants to write

11 articles and editorials, be factual. They moved their

12 plant, remember, up to Waverly. So, why didn't they

13 build it here in the City of Scranton, because it

14 vibrated in the mines? Everybody else has to live

15 here.

16 So, we need to move, and we've got to

17 have the comments stopped. Somebody said on this thing

18 that I was seen in the hall giving Mrs. Fanucci a hug,

19 Well, Jesus, why don't they complain about when I

20 hugged Judy Gatelli or I gave a hug to Janet Evans?

21 Maybe it's only right -- yeah, maybe it's only right if

22 I hug guys out here. I don't know what side to be on

23 around here.

24 We're friends out there. In here, we

25 have a job to do, and those out there that have nothing

.

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1 better to do, come up here and tell us about it, but

2 don't sit on your little computer and play stupid

3 games, because they gain nothing.

4 You know, come in here and tell the

5 people what you want to talk about. You know, be a

6 real person. You know, we don't need pen names.

7 There are so many issues that we have

8 in this city to develop. You know, the name calling,

9 the game playing, it's got to come to an end.

10 You know, we've got people running for

11 representatives and all this nonsense, and you can't

12 talk about who's running for an office, well, I'll talk

13 about them, because it's my right to talk about them.

14 And the people that are running,

15 Mr. Murphy sat here, he wants to change laws, go to the

16 laws he's going to do and you're going to get arrested

17 when he runs? Come on, let's get realistic.  
18 They ran this as a dictatorship here.  
19 You know, this Council has an opportunity, you speak  
20 out, you give us rights and we'll give you the  
21 courtesies, but let's get something done, and I think  
22 that's the important thing, and I think everybody  
23 coming here has to recognize that. Give the people a  
24 chance before you come in and badger. We all make  
25 mistakes, including everybody out here, everybody up  
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1 there will make a mistake, but, you know, this isn't  
2 where you make a mistake in Iraq and they execute you.  
3 You know, you get a second chance. Thank you.  
4 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mr. Bolus.  
5 Lee Morgan.  
6 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.  
7 The first thing I have is a couple phone numbers, one  
8 is for City Council, 348-4113, the other one is for  
9 Scranton Tomorrow, 963-5901, and the Scranton Public  
10 Library is 348-3000, and the reason I'm giving these  
11 phone numbers is because I would like everybody to call  
12 these numbers and let, especially Mr. Finnerty, Jack  
13 Finnerty at the Scranton Public Library, let them

14 understand that we don't want Channel 61 played with.

15 What I think is happening here is we've

16 reached the parodyne plane here, that's a pretty big

17 word, but it just means that we're pushing off an old

18 ideology here in Council that permeated this hall for

19 an extremely long time, decades.

20 As Mr. Bolus said in some way, you

21 know, we came here a long time ago seeking change,

22 myself, Mr. Bolus and some others, not for the benefit

23 of ourselves, but for the benefit of the community, and

24 we've pushed hard and we've used 61 as a voice for the

25 people, and it's beared fruit for us.

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1 We've pushed the obstructionists off of

2 Council, we've moved everyone and anyone out of our

3 way, and we see real progress beginning to take place

4 here, and we want that progress to continue, and we

5 don't want it stifled by politics.

6 There's been some relatively good ideas

7 that have come from this Council lately, and we are

8 optimistic that our voices are finally being heard. We

9 want a playground program, we want small business

10 incubators.

11 I think that moving the meetings into  
12 the neighborhoods would be a good idea, but I think it  
13 should be done on a Saturday, even if they have to be  
14 special meetings, and the reason for that is that you  
15 would have the opportunity to grab the largest shield  
16 of concerned citizens.

17 Where we need these meetings should be  
18 decided by Council, but there should be advanced notice  
19 of these meetings by at least two or three weeks so  
20 that people can clear their schedules.

21 I had a young lady stop me in Downtown  
22 Scranton and ask me about the meetings, and she seemed  
23 extremely concerned. She wants to discuss South Side.

24 There's a lot of people with a lot of  
25 good ideas, but we have to invite them here. Some of  
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1 us we may be considered to be diehards by coming here  
2 all the time seeking change, but there are people in  
3 the community who also want change.

4 Some of them don't understand that you  
5 don't have to be a property owner to come here to  
6 Council, all you have to do is be a resident.

7 And if you read federal law, you don't

8 even really have to be a resident to come here, okay?

9 It has to do with formulas for funding for the City of

10 Scranton for the federal government and the state.

11 And I just think we should be as

12 inviting as possible. There's a lot of good things

13 that could come here.

14 But I do have one question, and that

15 question is, What's taking place with the PEL, two

16 Council members are going to meet with the PEL, is

17 there anything that Council could share with us in

18 regards to what the discussions were and the parameters

19 of those discussions?

20 MS. EVANS: There will be bi-monthly

21 meeting in February that will conclude in June 2006.

22 It appears that the main focus of these meetings is to

23 update the recovery plan. A number of issues are going

24 to be addressed, and currently it is the revenue side

25 of the ledger that Mrs. Fanucci and myself and

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1 representatives of PEL and DCED are examining.

2 We have made an agreement that until

3 such time that these developments actually take a form

4 and are placed in writing, that we would not discuss

5 what discussions are occurring for the time being,  
6 because everything at this point is extraordinarily  
7 hypothetical.  
8 The first meeting, I can tell you, was  
9 just setting the groundwork providing a shared  
10 understanding for all parties involved of, you know,  
11 the tax base, the demographics, the types of taxes,  
12 those which cannot be changed and are grandfathered in,  
13 those which can't be changed, those that, for example,  
14 cannot -- we learned, and I don't think this is  
15 anything we can't discuss, that during the year of a  
16 reassessment, a property reassessment, taxes have a  
17 five percent cap on them, and at any year, any given  
18 year, other than the year of reassessment, there is no  
19 cap on taxation.

20 So, we're, as I said, we're building a  
21 framework right now, and everyone is providing  
22 suggestions, and because these agencies have the  
23 ability to access information far more rapidly than we  
24 as Councilpersons, they're going to do the  
25 investigating of the issues and ideas that we suggest

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1 to them.

2 And I'm sure both Mrs. Fanucci, if you  
3 don't mind me speaking for you, and myself would be  
4 happy to present any ideas, concerns or suggestions  
5 that the public has, we would be very happy to present  
6 that at these meetings.

7 MR. MORGAN: Okay. I'm going to leave  
8 the podium, but I'd just like to say one thing, and  
9 that thing is this, that I don't think the meetings of  
10 the PEL should concern only councilmen, because I think  
11 that skirts the public.

12 I think all meetings of PEL or anyone  
13 else for that matter that's attached to them should be  
14 done in public in this chamber, because what we have  
15 here is we have the public being denied access to these  
16 meetings because of the amount of people from Council  
17 that are attending them, and I think that's  
18 counterproductive, because I think when you ask all  
19 citizens to bear the brunt of the taxation and all the  
20 problems this city has, and then you hold meetings the  
21 way they're being done and the way they're being  
22 conducted and excluding the public, I think it's  
23 extremely wrong, and I'd just like to ask this Council  
24 to have all these meetings in this chamber with all  
25 five councilmen and have them open to public and let's

1 open a public dialogue that includes all the people.

2 And instead of us giving our ideas to

3 the two people from Council that are supposedly going

4 to be in attendance to these meetings, let the

5 residents come forward and speak and let them have

6 access to all information, and maybe they have some

7 good ideas. Thank you.

8 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

9 MS. EVANS: Mr. Morgan, also, I think

10 we do have a third Councilperson involved in a way,

11 Mr. Courtright attends the meetings with PEL and the

12 mayor on Mondays, so there are more than two of us

13 involved.

14 MS. GATELLI: He means at one time.

15 MS. EVANS: Right, at one time, but I'm

16 sure that whatever we -- whatever plan or revisions

17 come out of these meetings, this would be voted on by

18 City Council, and all this information would be made

19 public, and I guarantee you accessible to everyone,

20 because though that was supposed to be the case with

21 the recovery plan of 2002, I venture to guess that

22 there are many, many, citizens of Scranton, many who

23 are seated in this Council chamber tonight who have  
24 never read that recovery plan.

25 MR. MORGAN: Doesn't that skirt the

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1 Sunshine Law where two Council members --

2 MS. GATELLI: I don't think it does,

3 because I think what they're trying to accomplish at

4 those meeting is negotiations, and I think any time you

5 have negotiations and you're talking about personnel

6 and things of that nature, I don't think it's open to

7 the Sunshine Law anyway.

8 MS. EVANS: And I would expect, as

9 Mrs. Gatelli said, when the discussion turns to the

10 expenditure side of the ledger where the city is

11 concerned, there will be great discussion of those

12 personnel issues.

13 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, everyone.

14 Fred Budzinski.

15 MS. EVANS: Before Mr. Budzinski comes

16 up, I wanted to invite a young man to come up and be

17 seated at this table with his colleagues, I believe he

18 has applied for a seat on the Junior Council, as well,

19 and I gave you that letter this evening, and it just

20 seems inappropriate that he's seated in the last row.

21 MS. GATELLI: I didn't know he was

22 here.

23 MS. EVANS: Jackson, why don't you come

24 up, please?

25 MS. GATELLI: Welcome. Thank you for

.

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1 showing interest in your community. You're all to be

2 commended, all of you. Janet said before, I wonder why

3 there's not girls.

4 MS. EVANS: Yes, I do.

5 MS. GATELLI: I said, they figure

6 there's enough of us up here. We better put some boys

7 down there.

8 MS. EVANS: And I think, too, we want

9 to note that our other Mr. Miller, Ian Miller, also

10 attended many, many Council meetings throughout the

11 fall months, did you not?

12 MR. IAN MILLER: Yes.

13 MS. EVANS: So, he's no stranger to

14 Council either.

15 MS. GATELLI: Okay, Mr. Budzinski.

16 Sorry for making you wait. Fred Budzinski, Scranton

17 citizen.

18 A disabled woman told me to bring up

19 about these walk and don't walk lights in downtown.

20 There's one on Wyoming Avenue and Spruce Street, I

21 clocked, it gives you seven seconds to walk across the

22 street.

23 I walked down Spruce Street and

24 Penn Avenue, and it gives you 24 seconds to walk across

25 the street. I don't know if the time is off on that

.

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1 one on Wyoming Avenue, and Wyoming Avenue is

2 approximately twice the width of Penn Avenue, and I

3 would like Mr. Courtright to look into that and see if

4 there's any reason why that is so.

5 MS. EVANS: Mr. Budzinski, is that the

6 corner of Wyoming and spruce?

7 MR. BUDZINSKI: Spruce street, yeah.

8 Seven seconds, I clocked it. You go down to Penn

9 Avenue and Spruce Street, it's 27 seconds.

10 MS. EVANS: No, I couldn't make it

11 across.

12 MR. BUDZINSKI: You can take eight

13 minutes off the one on Penn Avenue and throw it back on

14 the one at Wyoming Avenue.

15 Now, there's a group of women at the

16 Jermyn community room that was talking about the tree

17 house. Some of them was thinking about donating, and I

18 will donate, but they were wondering where would they

19 send a check, send a check to the mayor, the Council or

20 the park? I think there should be one address to send

21 that check and have everything tallied.

22 MS. GATELLI: It was to be sent to the

23 Center For Independent Living. Kay, if you --

24 MR. BUDZINSKI: We need to know that.

25 Advertise so we know where --

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1 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, maybe you can see

2 if that can go on Channel 61 where they can send their

3 checks, but I recall the notice I got said to send it

4 to the Center For Independent Living.

5 MR. BUDZINSKI: But that should be

6 published in the paper.

7 MS. GATELLI: Okay. We will make sure

8 Mr. Brown gets the information.

9 MR. BUDZINSKI: And another thing, this

10 tree house, everybody, I believe, should get involved

11 in this and keep it -- keep the action on this, even  
12 the children in the grade schools get in on this, it's  
13 good publicity, get their nickels and dimes, just like  
14 they did at the zoo for that Toni Elephant.  
15 Also, I honestly believe the money  
16 coming in donated will succeed the \$300,000. I believe  
17 there should be a picnic area up there for the people  
18 at the counseling center, St. Joseph's, go up there,  
19 enjoy that tree house.  
20 I believe there should be a billboard  
21 up on the highway advertising that tree house for the  
22 families, the thousands of family going traveling and  
23 the children in the car, they see -- notice that tree  
24 house, I think they should bug their parents and I  
25 think they'll even have to stop and visit and spend  
.

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1 some money in the city.  
2 Also when they leave, I'm sure they're  
3 going to talk about the tree house. So, well, thank  
4 you anyway.  
5 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.  
6 Would anyone else like to speak before Council.  
7 MR. DAVIS: Asssalaam Alaikum, peace

8 and blessings of Allah be with you.

9 I would like the young men to stand up

10 and just introduce yourself and what schools you're

11 from. I'm so proud of you, I really am. I'd like the

12 first one there in the stripe shirt, please, stand up

13 and introduce yourself.

14 MR. JONES: Cory Jones, I'll speak

15 later, Scranton High.

16 MR. IAN MILLER: Ian Miller, Bishop

17 Hannon.

18 MR. JACKSON LOUGHNEY: Jackson

19 Loughney, Scranton High.

20 MR. DAVIS: All right, you guys. Now,

21 you kids out there know who they are, you seen them

22 fresh, clean, representing their schools, representing

23 you, I'm very proud of them, I'm very happy to see you

24 here. It's a dream come true for me, because unless

25 you guys are here, what we're doing doesn't mean --

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1 unless you're telling us we're doing the right thing

2 for you in the years to come, we're not doing the right

3 thing.

4 You're our progeny, that's a word that

5 you have to take down. Take it back to school with you  
6 and remember, you are our progeny, you're the reason  
7 why we're here. I wish there were some black faces,  
8 too, by the way, and girls, you might as well have  
9 orange faces and green faces, but I'm quite sure you  
10 will take care of that.

11 This is City Council, this is where we  
12 bring our laundry, our shirt pants in, whatever way you  
13 want to come before the people is the way you can come,  
14 and if those that are in our listening office feel they  
15 don't have the right diction, they don't have the right  
16 answers for the questions, please do not feel ashamed,  
17 because this is a town that our parents built.

18 If you're ashamed of your parents, then  
19 maybe you shouldn't come, but we need you, we need your  
20 input, and we've shown from our past right to the  
21 present what changes can be made right from this little  
22 podium.

23 We are starting political groups now at  
24 the Progressive Center, and I hope to have names for  
25 you soon of some minorities that would like to sit on  
.

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1 this young people's Council.

2 MS. GATELLI: I do have a student from

3 West Scranton who's going to be here next week.

4 MR. DAVIS: You have a student?

5 MS. GATELLI: Yes.

6 MR. DAVIS: Thank you. Oh, that's

7 nice.

8 MS. GATELLI: He's very interested.

9 Next week all of the students will be here.

10 MR. DAVIS: So, this is just a small

11 faction of what we're going to have? All right then.

12 Well, I'll bring in representation, too, if you don't

13 mind. Okay.

14 I was stopped in the street the other

15 day by some young man, I don't even know him, he says

16 don't be hard on Ms. Fanucci anymore, I said me be hard

17 on Ms. Fanucci? Let me get straight. How am I being

18 hard on Ms. Fanucci?

19 Oh, everybody is jumping all over her.

20 Just take it easy on her. I said, Okay. Thank you. I

21 promise. I'll be hard on Mr. McTiernan instead or I'll

22 be hard on Mr. Courtright. No, Mr. Courtright gave me

23 a new sign on Adams Avenues, I can't be hard on him.

24 Mr. McTiernan, I've gotten more

25 complaints from the students down there at Scranton

1 High School, and I know students will complain, they'll  
2 complain about anything, but I'm saying to you, you've  
3 got to chill, Brother. Excuse my language, but that's  
4 what the kids said.

5 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Davis, I think that  
6 that would be a school board issue. Mr. McTiernan is  
7 not here as the principal of Scranton High, he's a  
8 councilman.

9 MR. DAVIS: Yes, he is.

10 MS. GATELLI: No, he's not, he's a  
11 councilman.

12 MR. DAVIS: That's what he is, though.

13 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, but he's not here  
14 under that capacity.

15 MR. DAVIS: Who are you to define for  
16 me what he is to me? Excuse me.

17 MS. GATELLI: Well, this is not a  
18 school board meeting.

19 MR. DAVIS: Excuse me. Now, we have a  
20 problem, we have a problem in communications perhaps,  
21 maybe it's a very simple problem, and I think we're  
22 going to work towards having that problem come to

23 fruition, because we are going to the school board and

24 we're going to speak of the problems that he has with

25 the students at the school board, we'll take care of

.

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1 them, but I know Mr. McTiernan from here, I am as close

2 to him now as I've ever gotten to him, or ever will

3 perhaps, but we ran into once or twice in the hall, but

4 what I'm saying is, there's a problem that I'm hearing

5 with my kids every single day that doesn't need to

6 happen, and they shouldn't be coming to me with them,

7 they should be going to their parents, but that's up to

8 me now, I take it to their parents.

9 But there are people in our community

10 that do care about our kids, just like you care about

11 your kids, we care about our kids, and this is probably

12 the only chance we have to represent them, so excuse my

13 mannerism here or my forthrightness for my taking him

14 out of his bailiwick or his supposed position, he is

15 superintendent of Scranton High School, which is very

16 important to me, and he's very important to me, so I

17 can address you in this way and speak with respect,

18 believe me, it's with respect. You've taken me right

19 off my course of thought, but I love it.

20 MS. GATELLI: I'm sorry.

21 MR. DAVIS: It's okay, it's okay, it's

22 okay. Life it like that. Nobody can -- when you come

23 up here, nobody tells you how you're going to end or

24 how you're going to start or how you're going to go

25 home, but I'll tell you this, we're here, and we're

.

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1 going to keep coming back, so there must be something

2 in this show that allows us to create a better

3 Scranton.

4 Hopefully this is a good first sign, I

5 think, because now my kids will say, Hey, they're

6 representing themselves and I can get to them, I know

7 who they are, we can talk to them when we see them in

8 the hallway, if we have suggestions for them, we can

9 give them to them until we have the guts to go here and

10 speak out, until we have the understanding where we can

11 come here and address the City Council ourselves, and

12 that's what we're trying to get them ready to do, how

13 to defend themselves with class and intelligence so you

14 will understand what they're saying and they can

15 understand what you're saying. And be patient with

16 them, as you've been patient with me, and I appreciate

17 being here. Asssalaam Alaikum.

18 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

19 Next speaker.

20 MR. ELMAN: I'm Ronny Elman from North

21 Scranton. Before I start, could I say something about

22 the man that mentioned the lights? A lot of cities

23 have a system where it's read here and read there and

24 read on all four, nobody moves except people run for

25 it, you know every which way, and it works very good,

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1 you know, very simple.

2 But I was here a couple weeks ago

3 talking about the blight in my neighborhood, and this

4 administration just absolutely refuses to address it.

5 I keep getting phone calls, and I talk

6 to people, and today Mike Wallace phoned me and told me

7 a blatant lie that he has to start all over again

8 because the house was sold.

9 It's been the same name, there's a

10 building permit, nothing has changed. Well, my house

11 probably is going downhill like everything else. I

12 just can't -- you know, you people are our only door to

13 this administration. They got, like, a wall built

14 between us and them. You can't talk to nobody.

15 I remember when Mr. Connors was in

16 there it was an open door policy, you walk in, you see

17 him, you could see Mr. Murphy, Mr. Klee, now you can't

18 get nobody on the phone, you get answering machines,

19 and they don't phone you back. It's frustrating.

20 When I bought my house 11 years ago, my

21 note was \$346 a month, I paid \$66 in taxes, and I think

22 \$292 for insurance for \$50,000 or so. Now my note is

23 \$346 a month, now, get this, my taxes are \$348 a month,

24 which makes it \$694, and my insurance is \$825 a year

25 because it's a \$100,000 house they say, and I know you

.

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1 people are saying boloney, so I brought my paperwork,

2 and right there is \$346 is my note, right there is what

3 my payment was, \$694.

4 You know, this is senseless. I'll be

5 70 years old next month, I'm supposed to be enjoying

6 myself, and I've got to go back to work for taxes. I

7 make \$26,000, \$27,000 a year, I've got a fixed salary,

8 I'm a fixed income, it's just not right.

9 And I've had two appraisals, like I

10 mentioned a couple of weeks ago, my house went down

11 \$10,000, \$12,000 because of all the blight in my  
12 neighborhood. I've been complaining for a year and a  
13 half about one piece of property that looks like a  
14 cesspool, not one thing was done.

15 You know, you people have failed me.

16 There's nobody here ever mentioned it to anybody. You  
17 know, I ask if this doesn't go nowhere. It's an  
18 abomination --

19 MS. GATELLI: Sir, could you leave him  
20 the address of that property when you leave?

21 MR. ELMAN: It's the old Marvin Inn on  
22 Marvin Street and Main Avenue. It's terrible looking.  
23 All he did -- there's a tractor-trailer parked there,  
24 he moved two trucks and then he put the garbage in the  
25 tractor-trailer, and now he said that he's using the  
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1 tractor-trailer for building materials.

2 It's been there a year. There's  
3 nothing done on that building. You know, it's not  
4 being stored, he's storing junk in it.

5 MS. GATELLI: And why was Mr. Wallace  
6 called, is there a zoning issue?

7 MR. ELMAN: Because I phoned everybody.

8 I've just run out of people to phone and talk to, you

9 know? And I phoned him repeatedly until he finally

10 answered my message.

11 You know, there was a fellow here a

12 couple weeks ago, he said he had a \$300,000 house that

13 the family gave him, you probably remember, and he was

14 whining about what the taxes were and he can't park his

15 BMW or something out on the street, you know, nobody

16 gave me my house, I'm very fortunate that I had an

17 above-average job with Mr. DeNaples and I saved up

18 money for my down payment and he took me to the bank

19 and got me a loan, and here I am on the verge of losing

20 it. I can't sell it.

21 I tried to get a refinance, and, you

22 know, like I said, it's going down the other way. The

23 cited blight all over my neighborhood, you know, the

24 appraisal.

25 I have two boys that don't want to.

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71

1 They're both leaving town. They talk about 20 years

2 from now, the way Mr. Doherty is trying to borrow us

3 out of debt, what will this town be like in 20 years?

4 What are they going to inherit in 20 years the way the

5 tax base is?

6 You know, it's just -- you people hear

7 but you just don't listen to us out here when we talk.

8 You know, they said, Don't sell the South Side Complex,

9 nobody paid any attention to the public.

10 I never met anyone that was for the,

11 you know, wanted it sold. People said, Stop the KOZ.

12 It goes on to this day. What have we gotten out of

13 KOZ? We've got a bunch of parasites up in Tripp Park,

14 you know, living off of people like me, that's why my

15 taxes are so high. I don't have no kid, I don't even

16 have no grandchildren in school. Now we're talking

17 about a \$300,000 tree house? We don't need those

18 things.

19 I'm sorry, I just get so made and

20 frustrated up here. It's -- you know, I was told to

21 get a couple of my neighbors and go down in April and

22 get a tax reduction, but that's not going to help me

23 for the loss of my house. Now, I don't know what to

24 do.

25 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

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72

1 Thank you.

2 MR. ELMAN: All right. Thank you very  
3 much for listening to me, and I apologize if I get out  
4 of --

5 MS. GATELLI: No, you were fine.

6 MR. ELMAN: I just get so frustrated,  
7 because you can't talk to nobody in this administration  
8 like you could the Connors.

9 MS. GATELLI: Well, I worked for  
10 Mayor Connors, and we had to answer our own telephones.

11 MR. ELMAN: You know, you used to see  
12 him at weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, the grocery  
13 store. I came face to face in this building with the  
14 mayor one day and said, Hi Ya, and he just looked at  
15 me. You know, that's no way to do people, anybody.  
16 He's just -- this whole administration is just aloof  
17 or, you know, they just wreak from arrogance. It's not  
18 a friendly administration for these people out here  
19 like me. Thank you very much.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you very much.

21 MS. GATELLI: Mr. McAndrew.

22 MS. EVANS: Sir, I'm going to try  
23 again, but I can tell you what I'm up against, and I'm  
24 a City Councilwoman, I don't get that much more action  
25 oftentimes than you do, and I know there is another

1 location that I'm going to talk about later, and I've  
2 been pursuing that for maybe nine months now, and the  
3 answer I get is that the demolition crew is working or  
4 the blight crew rather is working on the demolition of  
5 certain homes.

6 And I have seen the demolition list,  
7 and it is significantly expansive, there are many, many  
8 homes citywide on that list, and there isn't enough  
9 money allocated in the budget to get those houses down  
10 as quickly as it needs to happen.

11 It's, again, probably not one of the  
12 great priorities of the administration, but, you know,  
13 that's the answer that I received.

14 Once they finish that work, then  
15 they'll take a look at what I'm asking for and  
16 hopefully address it, but I'd like a timeline on it,  
17 because I'm not sure if they're referring to 2006.

18 MR. ELMAN: You talk about the  
19 demolition list, but Mr. Doherty can get a building  
20 torn down immediately at city expense to give somebody  
21 and then say, Well, we got transfers, you know, on the  
22 real estate. It would have happened anyway if those

23 individuals had to tear the building down.

24 MS. EVANS: I agree, I agree. Money,

25 there's not enough money, and the money needs to be

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1 going into the elimination of blight in the

2 neighborhood.

3 MR. ELMAN: There's just a monumental

4 waste every time you turn around in this city. You

5 know, we couldn't afford all these buildings. This

6 building got new furniture and everything, it's nice,

7 but we're broke.

8 You can't keep borrowing yourself out

9 of debt, country, cities, states, nobody can borrow

10 themselves out of debt.

11 MS. EVANS: I agree.

12 MR. ELMAN: I mean, he might have a way

13 to do it, it ought to make him a trillionaire when he's

14 finished, but so far he's a failure.

15 Like I said, these people who inherit

16 this in 20 years when they try to pay taxes --

17 MS. EVANS: Well, actually they're

18 going to inherit it much sooner than that.

19 MR. ELMAN: I know.

20 MS. EVANS: They're going to inherit it  
21 in probably, well, it could be as soon as five years.

22 MR. ELMAN: You could see my taxes that  
23 I'm trying to catch up on.

24 MS. GATELLI: All right. Thank you  
25 very much. We'll look into your questions.

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1 MR. ELMAN: Thank you. Mr. McAndrew.

2 MR. MCANDREW: Good evening, Council.

3 For the record, my name is Larry McAndrew, I'm a

4 Scranton resident and taxpayer, and I'm also

5 vice-president of the Scranton-Lackawanna County

6 Taxpayers and Citizens Association, and we are

7 incorporated.

8 I want to first say that our bi-weekly

9 meeting is going to be this coming Wednesday,

10 February 22 at 7 p.m., and I cordially invite all five

11 Council members to please attend this meeting.

12 We have Century 21 that has the

13 contract for Lackawanna County for assessment. It's a

14 very important meeting, and we put out -- extend that

15 welcoming to each and every one of you.

16 As you might be aware, our Council

17 President is a member of our taxpayers citizens group,  
18 and we're proud of her.

19 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

20 MR. MCANDREW: I want to second say  
21 about an update about an important meeting that the  
22 president of our taxpayers group, Mr. Robert Ozzie  
23 Quinn, myself and one of our members, Freddie, who is a  
24 senior citizen who got over 400 petitions for these  
25 park benches for downtown.

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1 Well, we had our meeting and it  
2 consisted of two members from the Colts Bus System,  
3 Lamar Advertising, a gentleman from Diversified, and  
4 Mr. Walsh, from the Steamtown Mall, and what we came  
5 out of there was a positive attitude that this is going  
6 to be done.

7 Lamar wants to take on the  
8 responsibility of the maintenance and the upkeep of  
9 these benches, but they also want to keep as a team,  
10 because we have a railroad museum here in Scranton, a  
11 Victorian-style bench in the downtown area. They have  
12 the capacity of putting in a bench that could hold up  
13 to as many as 60 people at one time.

14 As I said, the manager at Steamtown,  
15 Diversified and the Colts buses are all working  
16 together, and, again, this will be accomplished.

17 MS. GATELLI: Good. Thank you very  
18 much for pursuing that.

19 MR. MCANDREW: You're welcome.

20 Thirdly, reading an article in The Scranton Times, once  
21 again this city has the distinct honor that I'm not  
22 very proud of, and what I'm talking about is asthma,  
23 pollution.

24 I call on this City Council to call on  
25 the officials in Harrisburg, to the state inspectors,  
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1 Department of Health, whoever it concerns to please  
2 come to this city to find what is causing the problems  
3 here that we are distinguished as number one as a  
4 pollution city and this asthma problem.

5 I know very well in the summertime  
6 residents of the Dickson Street area came here pleading  
7 for help because of a factory that was installed in  
8 their neighborhood.

9 I would like to know what kind of an  
10 update do we have on that factory? Are they living up

11 to the regulations? Does anybody have a response?

12 MS. EVANS: As far as we know, progress

13 has been made, but Mr. Fiorini will be coming in next

14 Thursday, the 23rd for a caucus, no, let me correct

15 that, I think he will be postponed to possibly two

16 weeks from this evening, because we have a guest coming

17 with whom we intend to discuss KOZs and KOEZs, he's a

18 KOZ coordinator, but Mr. Fiorini will be coming in, and

19 we can discuss it at length with him.

20 I also believe, though, there have been

21 very serious discussions concerning Darron's buying

22 some of the homes that are directly and negatively

23 affected by their presence.

24 MR. MCANDREW: These people in that

25 neighborhood are being held captured as prisoners.

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78

1 They cannot leave their houses in the wintertime, and

2 in the summertime or the spring, my understanding is

3 they can't enjoy sitting on their porches, because of

4 the dust and the problems they have in that

5 neighborhood.

6 MS. EVANS: No, they can't.

7 MR. MCANDREW: That is just one area of

8 Scranton. I mean, this is very serious health issue

9 here.

10 MS. GATELLI: Mr. --

11 MR. MCANDREW: I think we should have

12 people come in here, officials, come here to

13 investigate why. I thank you.

14 MS. GATELLI: Mr. McAndrew, we had a

15 problem similar to that in South Scranton several years

16 ago, where a company was making plastic products and

17 they had a large silo where they were burning the

18 plastic, and we called the Department of Environmental

19 Protection, and they monitored the situations, and we

20 filed lawsuits as a neighborhood association against

21 that particular industry, and I'm very happy to report

22 that we beat them and they had to closed down.

23 And I don't like to talk against

24 factories that create jobs and, you know, give to -- so

25 much to our economy, but we cannot sacrifice the health

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79

1 and safety and pleasure of residents to live in their

2 neighborhood.

3 So, maybe they can, you know, go to

4 their neighborhood association over there and start

5 some proceedings of some kind. I'd be willing to talk  
6 to them, if you could make the arrangements.

7 MR. MCANDREW: Okay. Thank you.

8 Mr. Ancherani. Thank you, Mr. McAndrew.

9 MR. ANCHERANI: Good evening, Council.

10 I'm Nelson Ancherani, resident, taxpayer, city employee  
11 and the financial secretary of the FOP.

12 For the past four plus years we've been

13 hearing or reading about the recovery plan put forward

14 by the mayor. After a while it becomes -- it gets to

15 be old news listening to anyone discussing it or by

16 reading it in the newspapers.

17 When I read about it in the newspaper,

18 which I cancelled my subscription, it brings the issue

19 out in the public eye and I feel I have to again defend

20 the unions.

21 The mayor and newspapers say that he

22 recovery plan has to be implemented to save the city \$4

23 million. That breaks down to \$2.4 million savings from

24 the fire department and \$1.6 million from the police

25 department.

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80

1 By the mayor and newspaper constantly

2 bringing up the recovery plan, it does sound like it's  
3 the unions causing a deficit.  
4 What is important here and what we have  
5 to remember is that the mayor in his administration  
6 authorized the recovery plan. They didn't try to shove  
7 it down the throats of the unions.  
8 In the recovery plan, city employees  
9 are not to get raises, but that does -- just does not  
10 pertain to the unions, that pertains to all city  
11 employees.  
12 Over the past four-plus years, certain  
13 favorite employees got raises and there were new hires  
14 and created positions added to the payroll. This was  
15 in violation of the recovery plan.  
16 Up to and including 2006, the amount of  
17 money paid out in wages to these new hires and  
18 recipients of the pay raises is approximately \$5  
19 million cumulatively.  
20 The public safety office since 2002,  
21 and up to including 2006, will be \$500,000. This was  
22 an office and position that wasn't in the recovery  
23 plan. This office is costing the city \$100,000 a year,  
24 and that does not include the medical insurance.  
25 The health care consultant that saved

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81

1 the city millions of dollars was fired by the city.  
2 Sara Pacard did a terrific job straightening out a  
3 chaotic health care system in this city. Now the  
4 administration is saying, Health care is increasing by  
5 millions.

6 Isn't that strange that we saved  
7 millions when we had Sara Pacard, and now we are  
8 millions in debt because we don't have her as our  
9 health care consultant? Why was she fired?

10 The excuse the mayor gave when the job  
11 tax was introduced by the state in 2004 was that the  
12 city budget for 2005 was already enacted and the job  
13 tax couldn't be implemented or added.

14 But we have to remember the real reason  
15 the job tax wasn't considered or passed by counsel, the  
16 mayor didn't want the \$52 job tax at the time because  
17 it would have affected the arbitrations going on  
18 between the city and the unions, and the mayor didn't  
19 want unions to have an advantage in the arbitrations.

20 So, again, remember, the unions didn't  
21 write the recovery plan, the mayor did. We, the  
22 unions, are not the ones who violated the recovery

23 plan, the mayor did when he gave out raises to chosen  
24 employees and created new positions and hired new  
25 people for them.

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82

1 You can see by the city's history of  
2 lost arbitrations that is quite common for them to  
3 violate a contract, so why not violate the recovery  
4 plan?  
5 The city is used to violating  
6 contracts. I can never remember the city filing  
7 grievances or going to arbitration over the unions  
8 violating the contracts.  
9 So, when the city blames the unions,  
10 they should be looking in the mirror at themselves.  
11 The money they could have saved by not giving any  
12 raises would have been \$5 million, eliminating the  
13 public safety office, \$500,000, implementing the job  
14 tax for 2005, \$2.1 million, the savings in millions by  
15 not firing the health care consultant, and the millions  
16 that would have been saved in lawyers' and arbitrators'  
17 fees alone may have wiped out any deficit that the  
18 mayor is claiming.  
19 And don't forget that if the mayor sat

20 down with the unions four years ago and negotiated in  
21 good faith, concessions could have been given by the  
22 unions.

23 The unions always helped and stepped up  
24 when the city cried poverty, but what the city and  
25 mayor seem to forget is that the unions are comprised

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1 of human beings who deserve to be treated with respect,  
2 not treated with contempt. We all put our pants on the  
3 same way.

4 Mrs. Gatelli, last week you had  
5 mentioned about the soldiers and talking to Mrs. Moran.

6 MS. GATELLI: I haven't received any  
7 information yet, Mr. Ancherani.

8 MR. ANCHERANI: All right. Maybe a  
9 suggestion, if you don't hear anything from the  
10 administration, possibly the Council could take it up.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

13 MR. JONES: Corey Jones, wage taxpayer,  
14 that's basically it, but I didn't think I was going to  
15 be here, because around nine o'clock I found out that  
16 today was Wednesday by Mr. McTiernan, but we got it

17 sorted out, and it's Thursday.

18 I just want to thank, I know

19 Mrs. Evans, I kind of know her, Mrs. Gatelli, I

20 somewhat know you, I guess, and, Mr. McTiernan,

21 principal, and Mrs. Fanucci and Mr. Courtright, if you

22 don't like me, just let me know, if not, maybe we can

23 take it on the streets or something, but I'm joking.

24 I just wanted to thank you for this

25 opportunity. I think it's good that we're doing this,

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1 because it's, like, I was thinking about it, that it's

2 like a child having a santa claus list and they don't

3 get anything on it, so they get like a box of oatmeal

4 or something and they don't really want that, so we're

5 kind of the people that will give them a bike or a

6 video game or something and not that jar of oatmeal or

7 whatever. So, I would like to thank you again, and you

8 know.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Anyone else?

10 MS. LASKE: Good evening, Council.

11 Judy Laske, Scranton, city resident, homeowner. I'm

12 here tonight basically to see if I could get radar back

13 down on Providence Road because the cars are going a

14 little out of control down there.

15 I did speak to a policeman and he said

16 he would try to see what he could do about it, but I

17 haven't seen anything yet, so I'd like to see more

18 patrols down there, because it's just out of control

19 down there.

20 I think maybe because it was, like, so

21 long ago they think that they can get away with it now,

22 so hopefully you can catch some speeders down there

23 before somebody else gets killed.

24 Also, I wanted to talk about -- last

25 week I was watching, and, Judy, you had said something

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1 about how on the internet where they have that bashing,

2 I don't even know what the internet site --

3 MS. GATELLI: No, I mentioned E-mails.

4 MS. LASKE: Yeah, the E-mails, like,

5 the really rotten ones.

6 MS. GATELLI: Sometimes people don't

7 leave there E-mail there because you get some nasty --

8 MS. LASKE: Oh, well, there's some

9 nasty ones on there about me. I won't say what it's

10 about, but pretty nasty, and it is far, far from the

11 truth.

12 It mentioned me and an ex-city

13 councilman, and if anybody reads that, it's a bunch of

14 garbage, and I kind of know who's doing it, and when I

15 find out, which I do have an investigator on it.

16 That's what I was coming down here to

17 tell you, Judy, there is a way to find these people.

18 They think there isn't. They can put anonymous, they

19 could put Joe Schmo, but I just found out before I came

20 down here that it's called an IP address. What that's

21 considered is Computers internet I.D. number, and it

22 goes back to the user.

23 So, I don't care if you put Jane Doe,

24 they will find you. And I'm telling you, if I find, I

25 won't even say, who it is, I know who it is, and, you

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86

1 know, they're talking about one of my children on

2 there, and this person that's doing it that I believe

3 is doing it just had a baby, and you know what, what

4 goes around comes around, and I firmly believe that.

5 And if I find out who it is, I will

6 prosecute them for slander, I will prosecute them for

7 defamation of character.

8 My 11-year old son found this on the  
9 internet, just because he's trying to get up to date on  
10 things and everything, and we just happened to find  
11 that.

12 And I think it was pretty disgusting  
13 that because this person that's doing it doesn't like  
14 the person that was on City Council before, I don't  
15 know why they're bringing me in on it, I have nothing  
16 to do with politics, and as far as I'm concerned, I  
17 like all of you.

18 I mean, I might have my differences  
19 between you guys, but I've never had anything bad with  
20 any of you, even like the last Councilpeople that were  
21 up here, nothing. I've never said anything bad about  
22 any of you.

23 And I had to come down here to do this  
24 tonight, because I'm having surgery next week, and it's  
25 pretty serious, and I didn't want anybody -- God forbid

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1 I don't make it out, which there's a pretty damn good  
2 chance that I'm not, and I want everybody out there to  
3 know that what's on the internet about me is not true,  
4 and anybody that knows me, knows it's not true.

5 And to that SOB that's doing it, if I,  
6 and I didn't curse, but I'm telling you right now, when  
7 I find them, and if my husband finds him, and believe  
8 me, this guy that I'm talking about is probably ten  
9 sizes the size of my husband, my husband will get him,  
10 and we will legally, I don't mean physically get him,  
11 but I mean --

12 MS. GATELLI: Unfortunately we can't  
13 control the internet.

14 MS. LASKE: Oh, I know. But I just  
15 wanted people to know that if God forbid anything  
16 happens to me, I want it known that it is far from the  
17 truth. I didn't do things with people to get the stop  
18 signs in because it was put in so quickly, I must have  
19 slept with them, slept with city councilmen.

20 Well, you know what, I hope I don't  
21 have to come back down here for anything else, because  
22 there's three women up here now. So, I hope, you know,  
23 that will be the next thing going on.

24 So, I mean, I'm trying to make light of  
25 it, you know what I mean? It's just garbage. And the

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1 people that are doing it, if they don't have the guts

2 enough to put -- to sign their names to it, take it for

3 all it's worth.

4 I'm here in person, I stated my name.

5 It is far from the truth what they're saying about my

6 son, and I just want to let people know that. I'm --

7 I'm -- I don't know. It's just disgusting that people

8 have to be such scum bags about things, you know?

9 MR. COURTRIGHT: Ms. Laske, they just

10 put the bike cop back down in your area, I believe, so

11 maybe we can ask them to check on the speeding.

12 MS. LASKE: Oh, that's good.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT: I think recently they

14 put a bike cop back down there.

15 MS. LASKE: Yeah, they need something

16 down there. And I just want to make a real quick thing

17 about the tree house up at Nay Aug, well, I think we

18 need that like we need another hole in the head, and

19 you know what, God forbid if they don't get more police

20 out on the streets, that's what's going to happen to

21 somebody, somebody's going to be shot, because I know

22 Pedro Gonzales, I don't know if I'm pronouncing that

23 right, he was assaulted in his store, and I believe two

24 or three weeks ago someone down at the Arby's down on

25 Seventh Avenue, I believe it was, was pistol whipped.

1 So, how could that mayor say that we do  
2 not need more police officers? You know, I don't know  
3 if his kids need to go get jobs or not, but maybe he  
4 wouldn't want to put their kids in jeopardy putting  
5 them at a job that they could be pistol whipped.

6 I mean, it's ridiculous. We need more  
7 police officers, and we definitely need more firemen.  
8 So, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

9 MS. GATELLI: Thank you, Mrs. Laske.

10 Is there anyone else who would like to speak?

11 MS. GARVEY: 5-A, motions.

12 MS. GATELLI: Mrs. Evans.

13 MS. EVANS: Good evening, ladies and  
14 gentlemen. I first ask, like Mrs. Gatelli did earlier  
15 this evening, for your prayers for Mr. Jerry Grabowski,  
16 a retired city worker who was devoted both to his  
17 family and our city, and for particularly his dear wife  
18 and family whom he leaves behind.

19 Also, I ask that all of you would  
20 remember the Reverend Al Cohen, C.P. in your prayers.  
21 He was stationed at St. Ann's Basilica for at least ten  
22 years, and his kind heart and compassion for others are

23 truly irreplaceable, and I have to say I'm so saddened  
24 by the continuous loss of a generation of human beings  
25 who demonstrated such kindness, service to others, a  
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90

1 formidable work ethic. I'm just hoping that my  
2 generation and my children's generation and your  
3 generation would continue their legacy, and whenever  
4 possible, raise the bar from where it's been, because  
5 we are losing in our society, I think, a devotion to  
6 family, to God, to work, for oftentimes a doggy dog  
7 world.

8 Also, I wish to recognize two Scranton  
9 firefighters who were injured in the line of duty this  
10 week. Theirs is not an easy job, and one that most of  
11 us civilians would never attempt. Our best wishes for  
12 a speedy recovery go to Mike Dougherty. I believe a  
13 chimney collapsed and fell on his leg, and Joe Chesik,  
14 whose fingers were sliced open, and we want both of you  
15 gentleman to get well soon.

16 I also have a few citizens' requests  
17 for this week. Please address the pave cuts on  
18 Luzerne Street from Main Avenue to Meridian, utility  
19 companies left numerous cuts within the last year. I

20 understand that roads must be restored to original  
21 condition within five years of the date that companies  
22 damage them. Residents of Luzerne Street report that  
23 their street was paved only two years ago, and they ask  
24 that the utility companies be forced to make proper  
25 repairs.

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1 Pittston Avenue to Stafford Avenue and  
2 Kane Street, fix potholes. Prospect and Alder Street,  
3 an area of a manhole cover is sinking, and a resident  
4 of South Side complained that his truck sunk into it  
5 and it was very difficult to remove.

6 A letter to Mark Seitzinger, I received  
7 his response to my request to address blight conditions  
8 at 212 Oak Street and in the 1600 block of South  
9 Webster and Gallagher Court.

10 I understand that the blight crew is  
11 working on home demolitions, however, I request a time  
12 commitment for the above-mentioned properties.

13 408 Honesdale Street, please send an  
14 inspector to examine debris on the porch and property.  
15 Neighbors have reported eyesore conditions and are  
16 concerned that small animals and vermin might be

17 attracted to the debris. I've added a few of the  
18 speakers' requests tonight, as well.  
19 Also in my mail this evening I received  
20 something very pleasantly surprising, and it's  
21 certainly a novel approach, for the first time in three  
22 years I've received an invitation to the mayor's State  
23 of the City Address, unfortunately I cannot attend  
24 because I work for a living like many Scrantonians, and  
25 this address will be delivered at twelve noon.

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1 I do not believe this address should be  
2 given in the Chamber of Commerce boardroom to invited  
3 guests only, I believe it should be addressed to all  
4 the people of the City of Scranton. We're paying the  
5 bills for this city, and no one more than the taxpayers  
6 deserves to hear and wants to hear about his vision for  
7 the next year or what promises he may perceive and how  
8 far we've come.

9 So, I would suggest to the friends of  
10 Scranton Tomorrow who issued this wonderful invitation,  
11 and believe me, I am appreciative, as I said, it's a  
12 first, but I think that address should be delivered in  
13 the auditorium, the largest auditorium of either a

14 school or a university that's available within the City  
15 of Scranton, and no letter of invitation should be  
16 necessary, all the people should be invited.  
17 Also, I'd like to remind everyone to  
18 visit Friendly's restaurant on Wednesday, February 22  
19 from 5 to 8 p.m., and I understand that while you will  
20 enjoy a wonderful meal, the monetary -- well, actually  
21 a monetary percentage will be donated to the military  
22 families of our community, so please try to assist  
23 them.

24 Now very quickly and lastly, I have  
25 information regarding the city of Pittsburgh that I  
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93

1 believe closely relates to our circumstances here in  
2 Scranton, and I alluded to this, as I said earlier this  
3 evening.  
4 I see that, for example, IAFF,  
5 Pittsburgh Firefighters Local Number One, have sent a  
6 letter to the City Council of Pittsburgh asking them to  
7 basically request of the mayor that a contact be made  
8 to DCED, and they named the director in that area, to  
9 remove the application for the implementation of Act  
10 47, and I'm wondering if this City Council might be

11 able to do something similar in that a letter from  
12 Council could be forwarded to the mayor asking the  
13 mayor to request of PEL and DCED that our distressed  
14 city label be removed and that they remove themselves  
15 from oversight of this city.

16 In addition to that, which is even more  
17 interesting, Pittsburgh instituted a payroll tax, and  
18 this payroll tax affects every business in Pittsburgh,  
19 and that is how they were able to attack the  
20 non-profits.

21 And if I just might read a bit of the  
22 definition of business here that is being addressed by  
23 this payroll tax, business means any activity,  
24 enterprise, profession, trade or undertaking of any  
25 nature conducted or engaged in or ordinarily conducted  
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1 or engaged in with the object of gain, benefit or  
2 advantages, whether direct or indirect to the taxpayer  
3 or to another or others.

4 I'm going to skip down a bit here, a  
5 person shall be deemed to be conducting business within  
6 the city who engages, hires, employs or contracts with  
7 one or more individuals as employees or is self

8 employed, and in addition, does at least one of the  
9 following, first, maintains a fixed place of business  
10 within the city; second, owns or leases real property  
11 within the city for purposes of such business; third,  
12 maintains a stock of tangible personal property in the  
13 city for sale in the ordinary course of business;  
14 fourth, conducts continuous solicitation within the  
15 city related to such business, or five, utilizes the  
16 streets of the city in connection with the operation of  
17 such business, other than for the mere transportation  
18 from a site outside the city to a destination outside  
19 of the city.

20 Well, isn't that interesting? It seems  
21 to apply to just about everybody who is here in this  
22 city. So, I would think that we may have an answer  
23 here, Mrs. Gatelli.

24 MS. GATELLI: You can bring that when  
25 we start to have those meetings, and I'm sure it would

95

1 --

2 MS. EVANS: Well, you know what I think  
3 I'd like to do in addition is before Mr. Minora departs  
4 this evening, I'm going to make a copy of everything

5 for you, exactly, for you to take a close look at,  
6 because I think perhaps the quickest and most thorough  
7 manner of solving this problem has been provided to us  
8 but the City of Pittsburgh, and it's something that we  
9 should be examining very closely, and if it's possible,  
10 enacting immediately.

11 So, I will give that to you, and  
12 hopefully you'll have a response for me quickly. I  
13 know you're otherwise employed and busy, but very  
14 quickly because the money that we're losing as the  
15 clock ticks is extraordinary. So, that's all I have.

16 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mrs. Fanucci.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes, I just have  
18 two brief things. Last week we were discussing the  
19 police cars and how we could fund and help maybe get  
20 exactly what we want from our money and try to make  
21 sure we can provide as many police cars as we can,  
22 there is a program that I just found out about, so I'm  
23 not real educated on it, but I will get the information  
24 to all of you, it's a program through the county, and  
25 from what I gather, many of the dealerships got

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1 together and said we're going to cap a price on a

2 certain car that we would use for either investigations  
3 or whatever, this cap is -- it's very reasonable, and  
4 what they will do, we will lease the cars from them,  
5 and at the end, the buyout was a ridiculous price, but  
6 I'm not going to go into the whole entire thing, but we  
7 can actually probably finance the amount of cars we  
8 want for this type of price if we can go onto this  
9 county program.

10 And from what I'm hearing, they had  
11 given us, you know, pretty much the okay to do it for  
12 the city, so, I will give everybody the information,  
13 and, Mr. Courtright, I will provide it for you so that  
14 maybe we can look into this and get what we want from  
15 the police cars, so I thought that was a great thing  
16 for us.

17 Also, last week we had asked for  
18 information on the Sewer Authority, claiming that they  
19 had done some work, we were all worried, a little  
20 concerned maybe that they were doing work that was not  
21 for the city, what I found out on a request for a  
22 letter that Mrs. Evans had sent, that the homeowners in  
23 front of the property where the Sewer Authority was  
24 working asked and said you can park your big equipment  
25 in our driveway, that supposedly is what had happened.

1 And so, when you would go by, it would  
2 appear that they were doing work for private people,  
3 but in light I guess they were saying they were doing  
4 work for the city and that they have never done work  
5 nor will they do work for private property, and the  
6 taxpayers were nice enough to let them park there.

7 That is supposedly, I said, now,  
8 Mrs. Evans likes it in writing, so make sure you send  
9 it to her because she likes to have her backup, but  
10 they had called with that, so I thought that was  
11 something we wanted to address.

12 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

13 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Also, I want to  
14 thank everybody for their quick response on the  
15 homeless situation, it shows what a great community we  
16 are. These are the projects that we really want to hit  
17 home. They are our people and they are our projects,  
18 and I just want to thank everybody for stepping up to  
19 that, and that's all I have. Thank you.

20 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Mr.

21 McTiernan.

22 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you. Mrs.

23 Gatelli, I have two items. Two students forwarded  
24 letters of interest to be on the Junior Council, and  
25 those students are Matthew Butler, who is a senior at  
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1 Scranton High School and James Piazza, who is a junior  
2 at Scranton High School, and I received those letters  
3 this week, and I will forward them to you for your  
4 consideration. And that's all I have. Thank you.

5 MS. EVANS: On that, though,  
6 Mrs. Gatelli, did you receive anything from Scranton  
7 Prep or --

8 MS. GATELLI: No. Bishop Hannon is  
9 Ian.

10 MS. EVANS: Bishop Hannon we have one  
11 representative.

12 MS. GATELLI: Yeah. No, I didn't hear  
13 anything from prep. Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes. Kay, if possible  
15 we could send a letter to Mr. Parker, Gus, a gentleman  
16 I know, I was talking about a bridge that goes over Elm  
17 Street into South Scranton, and the growth there is so  
18 bad that a kid riding his bicycle almost got knocked  
19 off the bicycle. There's trees and everything coming

20 out over that bridge, so maybe they can take a look at  
21 getting that cleaned up.

22 And Mrs. Fanucci talked about police  
23 cars, I think I'm going to have mostly positive things  
24 tonight, we have eight patrol cars, eight brand new  
25 patrol cars have been ordered, so hopefully they will

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1 get here soon.

2 I have to work with the police chief  
3 and Mrs. Novembrino who are in the process of trying to  
4 get detective bureau cars, but they're going to be  
5 used, and when you go out to get used vehicles, it's  
6 kind of hard to get an exact price, because when  
7 they're bidding on them, not all the vehicles have the  
8 same exact options on them, and I have to do a little  
9 bit of work for Mrs. Novembrino and the police chief  
10 and I think we're going to get that solved.

11 And to dovetail right into this, I had  
12 a group of police officers come to me, this is not my  
13 idea, so I'm not going to take credit for it, there's  
14 programs in other states where the police departments  
15 buy vehicles and give them to the police officer and  
16 that police officer takes that vehicle home, that's

17 their vehicle.

18 There's a group of police officers here

19 in the City of Scranton that came up with an idea, and

20 it's in its infancy and it has some bugs to be worked

21 out of it, but there's a group of officers that are

22 interested in doing this, and what they're interested

23 in doing, and, again, this is a very rough idea, and

24 I'm hoping that the administration will go along with

25 this, these officers are willing to purchase their own

.

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1 vehicle, it would be a used vehicle, it would be a

2 vehicle that would fit into the fleet and have to be a

3 particular type vehicle, they would take that vehicle

4 home.

5 When you have a police car right now,

6 basically if you're a south car, if you're

7 South One, that car goes out in the morning, noon,

8 night, it's running 24/7, 365 days a year. We're

9 seeing doubled up. I seen at one point a year or two

10 ago we had three people in a car, three officers in a

11 car.

12 If these officers buy their own

13 vehicle, they would use that vehicle for their shift

14 and their shift only and that vehicle would rest while

15 they are at home, it would be sitting there while

16 they're sleeping.

17 There's a lot of pluses to this. And,

18 again, I can't take credit for this, this is the police

19 officers doing this. When they go to court, when they

20 go on any kind of an investigation, they would use that

21 vehicle. That would make a bigger police presence in

22 the city, you would see more and more vehicles.

23 Keep in mind, this would have nothing

24 to do with the amount of vehicles the City of Scranton

25 would buy. The City of Scranton would still have to

.

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1 buy and supply the same amount of vehicle.

2 This is totally voluntary. No officer

3 has to partake in this that doesn't want to the partake

4 in this, but I always believed that police presence was

5 a big deterrent. So, the more vehicles we have out

6 there on the street, the better.

7 Now, what the officers would need in

8 return would be that, and, again this needs to be

9 worked out, and I'm hoping that the administration

10 would consider this, and, Kay, tomorrow possibly I will

11 come in and dictate a letter to you and maybe you can  
12 send it to the administration, the administration would  
13 have to agree to pay the insurance on these vehicles  
14 and the maintenance on these vehicles.

15 Understand this, the police officers  
16 would not be joyriding around with their families,  
17 going to Nay Aug, it would only be a police officer  
18 that would be allowed in that vehicle.

19 So, I really think it's a good idea,  
20 and I think it's a first, maybe for the first time in a  
21 long time the unions -- or the police union anyway and  
22 administration might be able to work together on  
23 something.

24 So, I would hope that if we sent this  
25 letter down, that the administration would agree to  
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1 this. And, again, there's a lot of bugs to be worked  
2 out. There was supposed to be some literature dropped  
3 off to me from the police department. They didn't get  
4 it to me in time, but I will have it and I will go over  
5 it, and I'm just hoping that the administration will  
6 consider this. That's all I'm asking, to consider it.  
7 So, I thought that was a positive thing.

8 And lot of times they, I forget what  
9 they called Nay Aug, what is that, our crown jewel, our  
10 treasure, something, they give it some kind of name  
11 that it's wonderful, and it's nice, I like Nay Aug, I  
12 don't particularly go up there that often, but I like  
13 it, but this past Saturday my wife and I had an  
14 opportunity to go, I call it the Masonic Temple, I know  
15 they call it the Cultural Center now, but we had an  
16 opportunity to go there, there was a show there,  
17 Magical Mystery Tour, it was a show about the Beatles.  
18 It was probably one of the single best shows I've ever  
19 seen in my life, and I think if we want to call crown  
20 jewels or treasures, I think this Northeastern  
21 Pennsylvania Philharmonic is a crown jewel and a  
22 treasure.  
23 They were so good, I could not believe  
24 it. And the Cultural Center itself, I think, is a  
25 crown jewel and a treasure. This is the first time  
.

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1 I've seen a show there since I was in grade school and  
2 they used to bus us over and make us listen to the  
3 Philharmonic, you know, but I think it's a wonderful  
4 facility, and if we're going to put that label on

5 anywhere, I think we should label the Cultural Center a  
6 crown jewel.

7 And this Philharmonic, it was fabulous.

8 It was one of the best shows I've ever seen in my life.

9 And -- I can't read my own writing, Judy. I think  
10 that's about it. Thank you.

11 MS. GATELLI: Thank you.

12 MS. EVANS: And they still bus kids.

13 MS. GATELLI: Yeah, they do, and they  
14 block the streets.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes.

16 MS. GATELLI: Mr. Courtright, your idea  
17 about the police cars, I'm just going to make a  
18 suggestion that you make a motion and we all vote on  
19 sending a letter so that it comes from all of Council,  
20 rather than a single Councilperson.

21 MR. COURTRIGHT: Absolutely. I'll make  
22 a motion that we send a letter to the mayor asking him  
23 to consider the idea of police officers purchasing  
24 their own vehicles and the city providing the insurance  
25 and the maintenance on these vehicles.

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1 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

2 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in

3 favor.

4 MS. EVANS: Aye.

5 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

6 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

8 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

9 have it. So, Kay, you can send it on behalf of all of

10 City Council.

11 Okay. I just have two things. We

12 talked about the planning, the regional planning

13 tonight, and the zoning ordinance that we currently

14 have is 13 years old, so I think that at the very least

15 it needs to be amended.

16 You see where we're starting to get

17 requests to change zoning in certain areas of the city,

18 and I think after 13 years, the complexion of the city

19 changes, so I'm going to make a motion that we as a

20 Council send a letter to the mayor suggesting that we

21 would like to see the zoning ordinance, A, either done

22 over, or B, at the very least, amended after 13 years.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in

25 favor.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye. The ayes have it

6 and so moved.

7 I only have one other suggestion, and

8 it's just a possibility of looking into it, new homes

9 are given, this goes to Mrs. Jones', some of her ideas

10 about construction of new homes, et cetera, and the

11 city currently has a new home incentive, where for two

12 years you don't pay property tax when you build a new

13 home, and when I worked here, I tried to do it, but I

14 was unsuccessful, I think it would be a wonderful

15 program if we could get some type of an incentive for

16 people to remodel the outside of their homes.

17 As you all know, blight is a very, very

18 big problem in Scranton, it always was and it always

19 will be, and people think that if they fix up the

20 outside of their home, their taxes are going to go up,

21 which in fact is not true, but the average citizen

22 thinks that's true, so, a lot of them don't paint their

23 house or fix a little crack in the window, or fix the  
24 porch, the pickets are broken because they think their  
25 taxes are going to go up, so I would also -- I guess  
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1 I'll have to make a motion again that we send the mayor  
2 a letter and have him ask Mr. Fiorini and whoever else  
3 needs to be involved to contact possibly other  
4 communities, and I'll try to do some of that myself,  
5 and see if can't come up with an ordinance where you  
6 would get a certain percent of your taxes forgiven for  
7 a certain period of time if you make repairs to the  
8 outside of your home, so I'll make that in the form of  
9 a motion again.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

11 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in  
12 favor.

13 MS. EVANS: Aye.

14 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

15 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

17 MS. GATELLI: Aye. The ayes have it  
18 and so moved. Thank you very much.

19 The next caucus next week will be at

20 5:30, and it will be the KOZ coordinator for anyone

21 that's interested in coming. Mrs. Garvey.

22 MS. GARVEY: 5-B, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

23 ORDINANCE - CLOSING AND VACATING THE IDENTIFIED

24 PORTIONS OF HILL STREET, AN UNNAMED STREET AND UNNAMED

25 ALLEYWAY SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A LOCATED BETWEEN BOULEVARD

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1 AVENUE AND OLYPHANT AVENUE NORTH OF PARKER STREET.

2 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

3 entertain a motion that we introduce 5-B.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

6 those in favor, say aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Any opposed? The

12 ayes have it and so moved.

13 MR. COURTRIGHT : We have to send this

14 ordinance to the City Planning Commission and the

15 Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission for

16 their review prior to conducting a public hearing, so

17 I'll make a motion that we send this ordinance to them

18 and ask the City Clerk to make the necessary

19 arrangements for public hearing and any advertisement

20 that may be needed.

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

22 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All in

23 favor.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

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1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

4 have it and so moved.

5 MS. GARVEY: 5-C, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

6 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993 (AS

7 AMENDED), ENTITLED THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF

8 SCRANTON, BY CHANGING A PORTION OF A PARCEL OF LAND

9 KNOWN AS PARCEL NUMBER 13501060019, LOCATED BETWEEN

10 OLYPHANT AND BOULEVARD AVENUES, NORTH OF PARKER STREET,

11 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, AS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A

12 ATTACHED HERETO FROM R-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL)

13 TO I-L (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL).

14 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll  
15 entertain a motion that 5-C be introduced into its  
16 committee.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All  
20 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

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1 have it and so moved.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: We also have to send  
3 this ordinance to the City Planning Commission and the  
4 Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission for  
5 their review prior to conducting a public hearing, so  
6 I'll make a motion that we send this ordinance to them  
7 and ask that the City Clerk make the necessary  
8 arrangements for the public hearing and any  
9 advertisements that may be needed.

10 I would also ask that Attorney Minora

11 make sure that all other procedures are followed when

12 amending the zoning ordinance.

13 MS. GATELLI: Second. On the question?

14 All in favor.

15 MS. EVANS: Aye.

16 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

17 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

18 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

19 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

20 have it and so moved.

21 MS. GARVEY: 5-D, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

22 ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE DISCHARGE

23 OF STORM WATER INTO THE SEWER SYSTEM PROVIDING FOR THE

24 ENFORCEMENT OF THIS ORDINANCE DEFINING CERTAIN ITEMS

25 AND IMPOSING PENALTIES.

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1 MS. GATELLI: I'll entertain a motion

2 that 5-D be introduced into its proper committee.

3 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

4 MR. MCTIERNAN: Second.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

6 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

9 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

12 have it and so moved.

13 MS. GARVEY: 5-E, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

14 ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE

15 CITY OFFICIALS TO ALLOCATE AMOUNTS NOT TO EXCEED

16 \$577,000.00 FROM ACCOUNT NO. 91-400, REPAYMENT OF URBAN

17 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS, FOR VARIOUS ELIGIBLE

18 PROJECTS.

19 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

20 entertain a motion that 5-E be introduced into its

21 committee.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

25 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

6 have it and so moved.

7 MS. GARVEY: 5-F, FOR INTRODUCTION - AN

8 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 157, 2005,

9 ENTITLED, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

10 APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO TAKE

11 ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSOLIDATED

12 SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

13 PROGRAMS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

14 BLOCK GRANTS, (CDBG) PROGRAM, HOME INVESTMENT

15 PARTNERSHIP (HOME) PROGRAM AND EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

16 (ESG) PROGRAM, BY REALLOCATING \$100,000.00 FROM PROJECT

17 NO. 100, COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM,

18 TO PROJECT NO. 122, LEAD PROGRAM, WHICH IS ADMINISTERED

19 BY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING OF SCRANTON.

20 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

21 entertain a motion that 5-F be introduced.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

23 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

24 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

25 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

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1 MS. EVANS: Aye.

2 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

3 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

5 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

6 have it and so moved.

7 MS. GARVEY: 5-G, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

8 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

9 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

10 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CECO ASSOCIATES,

11 INC. FOR DESIGN AND SURVEYING WORK RELATED TO THE STORM

12 SEWER PROJECT WITHIN THE RIGHT OF WAY OF EAST ELM

13 STREET FROM BLUCHER AVENUE TO THE HEADWALL OF THE

14 FRIENDSHIP HOUSE DRIVEWAY.

15 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

16 entertain a motion that 5-G be introduced.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question? All

20 those in favor, signify by saying aye.

21 MS. EVANS: Aye.

22 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

23 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

24 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

25 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

113

1 have it and so moved.

2 MS. GARVEY: 5-H, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

3 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

4 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

5 DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT WITH NORTHEAST LAND DEVELOPMENT,

6 LLC PURSUANT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL FOR

7 PHASE III OF THE VILLAGE AT TRIPP PARK.

8 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

9 entertain a motion that 5-H introduced.

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

11 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

12 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

13 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes, Madame President.

14 Where do we stand on punch list for that -- the other

15 phases of that property? Can we find that out?

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I had a meeting

17 with Chris Speicher on Monday with Attorney Farrell and

18 Donny King, and I also submitted a list to Mr. Speicher

19 from people that live in Tripps Park that have

20 complained that things -- certain items hadn't been

21 done. I came up with 13 items, and the punch list that

22 I was given from last May had 36 items.

23 Now, they claim that most of the items  
24 have been corrected, and I told him that we would  
25 introduce this legislation, and I would hope to receive  
.

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1 a punch list from Mr. Parker before next week, I will  
2 call him and remind him, and I told Mr. Speicher that  
3 if he did not provide me with the punch list and it was  
4 considerably taken care of, that I would recommend to  
5 this Council that we tabled it until those punch list  
6 items are done.

7 MR. MCTIERNAN: I appreciate that. Is  
8 there anyone who will be in charge or responsible for  
9 verifying that punch list or are we going to take --

10 MS. GATELLI: It's Mr. Parker who  
11 verifies the punch list.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Thank you.

13 MS. GATELLI: You're welcome. Anybody  
14 else on the question? All those in favor, signify by  
15 saying aye.

16 MS. EVANS: Aye.

17 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

18 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

19 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

20 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

21 have it and so moved.

22 MS. GARVEY: 5-I, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

23 RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER

24 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A

25 GRANT AGREEMENT AND INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

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1 PURCHASING AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF LACKAWANNA AND

2 THE CITY OF CARBONDALE FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN ASPHALT

3 RECYCLING MACHINE, CITY CONTRIBUTION NOT TO EXCEED

4 \$18,500.

5 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

6 entertain a motion that 5-I be introduced.

7 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

8 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

9 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

10 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, as, I

11 think it was Mrs. Evans said earlier, I'm not quite

12 sure what we're going to be doing with this machine,

13 but maybe, Kay, we can ask Mr. Parker to either send us

14 an explanation in writing or come in and tell us, and

15 I'm not trying to beat a dead horse here, but the

16 pothole machine didn't work, in my opinion, you know,

17 and I don't want to see the same thing happen here, and  
18 I hope that's not the case, but if maybe he can give us  
19 a little briefing on what's going to happen here, I'd  
20 appreciate that.

21 MS. GATELLI: Thank you. Also, I'd  
22 like to know when we're going to use it? You know, if  
23 the county is buying it and the City of Carbondale and  
24 Scranton, when are we going to use it and do they have  
25 priority to use it ahead of us? So, you know, we need

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1 to have some questions answered on that. Anybody else  
2 on the question? All those in favor, say aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye.

4 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

5 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

7 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed? The ayes

8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. GARVEY: 5-J, FOR INTRODUCTION - A

10 RESOLUTION - AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 1, 2006 - ENTITLED

11 RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2006 (AS AMENDED) ADOPTING THE

12 RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE SCRANTON CITY

13 COUNCIL, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, BY AMENDING THE

14 MEETINGS SECTION OF THE RULES OF COUNCIL.

15 MS. GATELLI: At this time I'll

16 entertain a motion that 5-J be introduced.

17 MR. COURTRIGHT: So moved.

18 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Second.

19 MS. GATELLI: On the question?

20 MR. COURTRIGHT: On the question, I

21 didn't, I apologize, I didn't read the backup on this,

22 what exactly are we --

23 MS. GATELLI: That's to have the

24 meetings quarterly in the neighborhoods.

25 MR. COURTRIGHT: Oh, okay.

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1 MS. GATELLI: With cameras. We will

2 not go anywhere Channel 61 cannot come. I don't know

3 if that's in the ordinance, but I'm adding that, just

4 for your knowledge.

5 MR. COURTRIGHT: Okay.

6 MS. GATELLI: Anyone else on the

7 question? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

8 MS. EVANS: Aye.

9 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

10 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

11 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Opposed?

12 MR. COURTRIGHT: No.

13 MS. GATELLI: The ayes have it and so

14 moved.

15 MS. GARVEY: Sixth order, there's no

16 business at this time.

17 Seventh order. 7-A, FOR CONSIDERATION

18 BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -

19 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 15, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF

20 TAX DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 422 SOUTH MAIN AVENUE,

21 SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, TO FIDELITY DEPOSIT AND

22 DISCOUNT BANK, 338 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,

23 PENNSYLVANIA, 18503 FOR THE SUM OF \$8,000.00.

24 MS. GATELLI: What is the

25 recommendation of the chairman for the committee on

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1 finance?

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final

3 passage of Item 7-A.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

6 call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

17 Item 7-A legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. GARVEY: 7-B, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

19 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF

20 COUNCIL NO. 16, 2006 - AN ORDINANCE - SALE OF TAX

21 DELINQUENT PROPERTY AT 1351 BRYN MAWR STREET, SCRANTON,

22 PENNSYLVANIA, TO JAMES D. AND LAURA A. DECKER, 920

23 DESALES AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, 18504, FOR THE

24 SUM OF \$2,500.00.

25 MS. GATELLI: What is the

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1 recommendation of the chairperson on finance?

2 MR. MCTIERNAN: I recommend final

3 passage of Item 7-B.

4 MR. COURTRIGHT: Seconded.

5 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll

6 call.

7 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

8 MS. EVANS: Yes.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

10 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

12 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

14 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

16 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare

17 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

18 MS. GARVEY: 7-C, FOR CONSIDERATION BY

19 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO.

20 33, 2006 - RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

21 SCRANTON AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE

22 MULTIMUNICIPAL PLANNING EFFORT AND AUTHORIZING SOUTH

23 ABINGTON TOWNSHIP TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR SUCH A GRANT

24 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON AS A PARTICIPANT IN

25 THE SCRANTON-ABINGTONS PLANNING ASSOCIATION CREATION OF

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1 A REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE

2 CITY'S SHARE OF THE COST OF THIS EFFORT.

3 MS. GATELLI: As the chairperson for  
4 the committee on rules, I recommend final passage of  
5 Item 7-C.

6 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

7 MS. GATELLI: On the question? Roll  
8 call.

9 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Evans.

10 MS. EVANS: Yes.

11 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Fanucci.

12 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Yes.

13 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. McTiernan.

14 MR. MCTIERNAN: Yes.

15 MR. COOLICAN: Mr. Courtright.

16 MR. COURTRIGHT: Yes.

17 MR. COOLICAN: Mrs. Gatelli.

18 MS. GATELLI: Yes. I hereby declare  
19 Item 7-C legally and lawfully adopted. Do I have a  
20 motion to adjourn?

21 MR. MCTIERNAN: I make a motion.

22 MR. COURTRIGHT: Second.

23 MS. GATELLI: Okay. All in favor.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye.

25 MS. NEALON FANUCCI: Aye.

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1 MR. MCTIERNAN: Aye.

2 MR. COURTRIGHT: Aye.

3 MS. GATELLI: Aye. Okay. We're

4 adjourned.

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6 (MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 I hereby certify that the proceedings and

4 evidence are contained fully and accurately in the

5 notes taken by me on the hearing of the above cause and

6 that this copy is a correct transcript of the same

7 to the best of my ability.

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR

11 Official Court Reporter

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LISA M. GRAFF, RMR  
17 Official Court Reporter

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